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Authors: Dimitri Topalis, Sarah Gillemot, Robert Snoeck, Graciela Andrei

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Thymidine kinase and Protein kinase in drug-resistant herpesviruses: heads of a Lernean Hydra

Dimitri Topalis<sup>\*1</sup>, Sarah Gillemot<sup>1</sup>, Robert Snoeck<sup>1</sup>, and Graciela Andrei<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> Rega Institute for Medical Research, KU Leuven, Herestraat 49 – box 1043, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

> Dimitri Topalis: dimitrios.topalis@kuleuven.be Sarah Gillemot: sarah.gillemot@kuleuven.be Robert Snoeck: robert.snoeck@kuleuven.be Graciela Andrei: graciela.andrei@kuleuven.be

\*Corresponding authors: Dr. Dimitrios Topalis <sup>1</sup>Rega Institute for Medical Research, KU Leuven, Herestraat 49 - box 1043, 3000 Leuven, Belgium Telephone: +32 16 32 15 38 Email: dimitrios.topalis@kuleuven.be

#### Abstract

Herpesviruses thymidine kinase (TK) and protein kinase (PK) allow the activation of nucleoside analogues used in anti-herpesvirus treatments. Mutations emerging in these two genes often lead to emergence of drug-resistant strains responsible for life-threatening diseases in immunocompromised populations. In this review, we analyze the binding of different nucleoside analogues to the TK active site of the three  $\alpha$ -herpesviruses [Herpes Simplex Virus 1 and 2 (HSV-1 and HSV-2) and Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV)] and present the impact of known mutations on the structure of the viral TKs. Furthermore, models of  $\beta$ -herpesviruses [Human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) and human herpesvirus-6 (HHV-6)] PKs allow to link amino acid changes with resistance to ganciclovir and/or maribavir, an investigational chemotherapeutic used in patients with multidrug-resistant HCMV. Finally, we set the basis for the understanding of drug-resistance in  $\gamma$ -herpesviruses [Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) and Kaposi's sarcoma associated herpesvirus (KSHV)] TK and PK through the use of animal surrogate models. Download English Version:

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