

# Scientists clarify molecular basis of interferon action

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Scientists at the University of California, Santa Barbara have made a significant discovery relating to viral infections in humans.

They studied how a certain enzyme called PKR behaves in human cells, and showed that this enzyme is important for the antiviral effect of interferon against some viruses, but not others. Interferon is a naturally occurring substance that is also used as a drug to treat certain viruses such as Hepatitis C.

The findings will be published in the *Journal of Virology* in August (Volume 81, issue 15), and the article is currently available on-line at

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