

A potential targeting gene therapy for developing HCV

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Gene therapy has emerged as a novel approach to combat HCV infection in the last few years. However, one of the most important obstacles to overcome is "targeting": the appropriate genes must be delivered and expressed in HCV infected hepatocytes without harming normal tissues.

A research article to be published in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology* on July 7, 2009 addresses this question. The research team led by Professor Feng from Central South University cloned the 2'-5'oligoadenylate synthetase (OAS) promoter and investigated its activity in the HCV-core positive liver cells. Since the role of HCV-core [protein](#) in modulating OAS [gene expression](#) is much controversial, this article further investigate the relationship of HCV-core protein and OAS promoter in human embryo hepatocyte line L02.

They established L02/core cell line that stably expressing HCV-core protein, and demonstrated that HCV core protein activated OAS gene promoter specifically and effectively. Utilization of OAS gene promoter would be an ideal strategy for developing HCV-specific [gene therapy](#).

More information: Wang Y, Mao SS, He QQ, Zi Y, Wen JF, Feng DY. Specific activation of 2'-5'oligoadenylate synthetase gene promoter by hepatitis C virus-core protein: A potential for developing hepatitis C virus targeting gene therapy. *World J Gastroenterol* 2009; 15(25): 3178-3182, www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/15/3178.asp

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