

Furin – the answer to the Ebola crises?

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With an estimated fatality rate of 52%, the need to discover a cure for Ebola has never been more urgent. New research published in *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics* this month suggests that scientists currently investigating potential cures for the Ebola virus should focus more attention on the protein furin.

Furin is responsible for activating certain proteins and is involved in the processing and maturation of viral and bacterial preproteins. Indeed, the strength of Furin activity has already been recognised, and used previously by scientists to propose broad anti-viral, anti-bacterial, and anti-cancer treatments. This study used the binding site of human Furin in molecular dynamics (MD) simulation.

Author of the study, Omotuyi Olaposi, a lecturer in Biochemistry at the Adekunle Ajasin University, Nigeria, explains that the experiment "may provide further insight to the design of novel drugs for Ebola virus disease treatment."

More information: "Ebola Virus Envelope Glycoprotein derived Peptide in Human Furin-bound State: Computational Studies", by Omotuyi I. Olaposi, *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics*, published by Taylor & Francis. www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07391102.2014.981207

Provided by Taylor & Francis

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