Abstract: Zika virus (ZIKV), a Flaviviridae has emerged a global health threat. It was first isolated from a sentinel rhesus monkey in 1947 in Zika forest of Uganda. Since 2016 when it was declared a global health emergency of international concern, concerted efforts to search for viable drugs and antiviral therapy has proved promising. However, no vaccine or therapy has been approved to treat ZIKV. In their paper Palanichamy et al. (2019) report the anti-ZIKV activity of 16 synthetic carbohydrate receptors in Vero and HeLa cells using a ZIKV reporter virus-based infection assay. The activity of the 16 SCRs was also compared with Suramin, an FDA approved drug for Trypanosomiasis which has also shown anti-ZIKV activity. Results showed that the SCRs are highly effective against the ZIKV with IC50s as low as 0.16 µM.

Reference