



Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ejmech>

Editorial

While the global COVID-19 pandemic started disrupting research laboratories around the world in the first half of 2020, many scientists turned their attention to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, seeking opportunities to make contributions to the health crisis through medicinal chemistry. The virus presented a variety of novel targets for drug discovery, which were opportunities for drug development. In particular, a SARS-CoV-2 protease —the 3-chymotrypsin-like cysteine protease (3CL^{PrO}) also named the main protease (M^{PrO}) — proved a popular target for the development of protease inhibitors. Nucleoside and nucleotide analogues targeting viral transcription provided additional opportunities for drug development, as did molecules to block the ability of the virus to bind to the ACE2 receptor and enter host cells. Other approaches

targeted associated health problems, such as the “cytokine storm” of inflammation associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection. This special issue of the *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* presents contributions of researchers around the world describing their efforts to fight this major health crisis.

Nicolas Moitessier, James Nowick

E-mail addresses: nicolas.moitessier@mcgill.ca (N. Moitessier),
jsnowick@usi.edu (J. Nowick).

Available online 31 March 2022