Turning Injections into Pills

“Smuggling” drugs across biological “borders” for the benefit of patients worldwide.

Patients prefer oral medicines, but many marketed drugs lack this desired feature. In particular, a promising class of medicines called peptides are limited to injections. Our technology offers a new way to convert these amazing drugs into oral forms.

We have extensive experience in development of transporter targeted prodrugs and have recently published an example of a prodrug of cyclosporine that we have shown to be recognised and transported in vitro [Med. Chem. Commun. (2016) 7 999]. Our plan for in vivo proof-of-concept has been developed from detailed discussions with potential pharmaceutical customers and partners, who require validation of the approach in vivo before committing to investment or partnerships. We are seeking funding to enable this work, with the aim of then partnering the technology with a pharmaceutical company.

To find out more about this research, contact:
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About the project

- Many drugs can only be administered by injection – expensive for the NHS and disliked by patients.
- Special proteins called transporters that line our gut can be targeted to “smuggle” drugs across.
- Our targeted prodrug technology has been shown to work in vivo for small molecules and in vitro for larger molecules such as peptides.