

1 **Simple and Rapid High-Throughput Assay to Identify HSV-1 ICP0 Transactivation**

2 **Inhibitors**

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27 **Abstract**

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29 Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1) is a ubiquitous virus that results in lifelong infections due to it's
30 ability to cycle between lytic replication and latency. As an obligate intracellular pathogen, HSV-
31 1 exploits host cellular factors to replicate and aid in its life cycle. HSV-1 expresses infected cell
32 protein 0 (ICP0), an immediate-early regulator, to stimulate the transcription of all classes of viral
33 genes via its E3 ubiquitin ligase activity. Mechanisms by which ICP0 activates viral gene
34 expression and the cellular factors involved are largely unknown. Here we report an automated,
35 inexpensive, and rapid high-throughput approach to examine the effects of small molecule
36 compounds on ICP0 transactivator function in cells. Two HSV-1 reporter viruses, KOS6 β (wt) and
37 *dlx3.1-6 β* (ICP0-null mutant), were used to monitor ICP0 transactivation activity through the HSV-
38 1 ICP6 promoter::*lacZ* expression cassette. A ≥ 10 -fold difference in β -galactosidase activity was
39 observed in cells infected with KOS6 β compared to *dlx3.1-6 β* , demonstrating that ICP0 potently
40 transactivates the ICP6 promoter. We established the robustness and reproducibility with a Z'-
41 factor score of ≥ 0.69 , an important criterium for high-throughput analyses. Approximately 19,000
42 structurally diverse compounds were screened and 76 potential inhibitors of the HSV-1
43 transactivator ICP0 were identified. We expect this assay will aid in the discovery of novel
44 inhibitors and tools against HSV-1 ICP0. Using well-annotated compounds could identify potential
45 novel factors and pathways that interact with ICP0 to promote HSV-1 gene expression.

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47 **Keywords:** herpes simplex virus 1, infected cell protein 0, high-throughput assay

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53 **1. Introduction**

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55 Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1) infects ~80% of the world's population. HSV-1 is the major cause
56 of recurrent oral-facial sores and can give rise to severe diseases such as herpes stromal keratitis
57 and encephalitis (Roizman et al., 2007). HSV-1 cycles between two phases of its life cycle: lytic
58 and latent infection. At first exposure, the virus productively replicates in the epithelial and
59 fibroblast cells at the periphery and then travels along the axons of the sensory nerves that
60 innervate these sites to establish latency in the trigeminal ganglion (Bloom, 2016). Latency is the
61 lack of infectious virions but continued presence of the HSV-1 genome. Various stressors trigger
62 the latent virus to lytically reactivate and may lead to recurrent symptoms, persisting as a lifelong
63 infection. Given that HSV-1 is an obligate intracellular pathogen, cellular factors play an important
64 role in replication and reactivation (Grinde, 2013).

65

66 Current treatments remain limited to targeting HSV-1 lytic infection and viral DNA replication. First
67 line therapeutics include acyclic guanosine analogues such as acyclovir and valacyclovir, which
68 upon phosphorylation by HSV thymidine kinases selectively inhibits viral DNA polymerase
69 (Vadlapudi et al., 2013; Wilson et al., 2009). The lifelong use of these drugs has led to viral
70 resistance (Piret and Guy, 2011). Second line therapeutics, cidofovir and foscarnet, are limited in
71 their use due to nephrotoxicity (Wilson et al., 2009). Therefore, it is essential to identify inhibitors
72 of novel targets that block HSV-1 lytic infection and reactivation.

73

74 We focused on infected cell protein 0 (ICP0), an immediate-early viral protein of HSV-1. ICP0
75 transactivates all three classes of HSV-1 genes, in part, through the destabilization and/or
76 inhibition of host factors. ICP0 utilizes its RING-finger domain for E3 ubiquitin ligase activity
77 targeting specific cellular proteins by conjugating them with ubiquitin, a post-translational
78 modification (Everett, 2000; Boutell et al., 2002). Ubiquitin-mediated degradation of cellular

79 proteins by ICP0 leads to the disruption of nuclear domain 10 (ND10), affecting cellular
80 proliferation and differentiation, senescence, and apoptosis (Cai et al., 1993; Ching *et al.*, 2005;
81 Zhong S *et al.*, 2000). Two ND10 constituent proteins, promyelocytic leukemia protein (PML) and
82 Sp100, are degraded by ICP0, which inactivates the antiviral properties of ND10s (Everett et al.,
83 1998; Muller and Dejean, 1999, Lanfranca et al., 2014).

84
85 Genetic studies have shown that ICP0-null mutants are reduced for viral replication compared to
86 wild type HSV-1 strains, demonstrating that ICP0 promotes efficient viral replication in cell culture
87 and animal models of HSV-1 infection (Sacks and Schaffer, 1987; Leib et al., 1989, Halford and
88 Schaffer, 2000; Everett, 1989; Everett et al., 2009; Stow and Stow, 1986). Animal studies have
89 demonstrated that ICP0 enhances the establishment of viral latency and significantly stimulates
90 viral reactivation (Halford and Schaffer, 2001; Halford *et al.*, 2006; Cai *et al.*, 1993). Given this
91 pivotal role of ICP0 in the HSV-1 life cycle, mechanisms by which ICP0 functions and the cellular
92 pathways that it alters remain to be identified (Smith et al., 2011; Hagglund and Roizman, 2004;
93 Boutell and Everett, 2013). Genetic and cell-based assays have led to the discovery of ICP0-
94 host interactions, but chemical biological approaches to examine these interactions have been
95 limited.

96
97 We developed a novel approach to examine HSV-1's ICP0 transactivator function and identify
98 potential inhibitors of HSV-1 ICP0. Our approach utilizes two reporter viruses, KOS6 β (Davido et
99 al., 2002) and *dlx3.1-6 β* (Davido et al., 2003). KOS6 β (wt) and *dlx3.1-6 β* (an ICP0-null mutant)
100 have an ICP6 promoter::lacZ cassette inserted between UL49 and UL50 genes. Notably, ICP0 is
101 observed to be a potent and specific inducer of the early ICP6 gene, which encodes the large
102 subunit of ribonucleotide reductase (Davido and Leib, 1996; Davido et al., 2002; Sze and Herman,
103 1992; Goldstein and Weller, 1998). ICP0 transactivation activity can be monitored using a
104 simple colorimetric-based β -galactosidase activity assay. This assay provides an inexpensive

105 and automated high-throughput screening method. We conducted an initial screen with
106 roscovitine, a broad inhibitor of cyclin-dependent kinases (cdks) and HSV-1 transcription, to
107 validate the sensitivity, robustness, and reproducibility of our assay.

108
109 Our assay was used in a pilot study that screened ~19,000 compounds, and we identified 76 hits
110 as potential ICP0 transactivator inhibitors, which included clusters of trichothecenes, lipopeptides,
111 and cdk inhibitors. Some of the compounds in these clusters have been previously shown to
112 impair HSV-1 replication, confirming the utility of our screen. Implications of our system are
113 discussed.

114

115 **2. Materials and Methods**

116 *2.1 Cell culture, viruses, and compounds*

117 HepaRG cell line is derived from a liver tumor patient (Gripon et al., 2002). HepaRG cells (a gift
118 from Roger Everett) were grown in William's E Medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum
119 (FBS), 2mM L-glutamine, 10 U/mL penicillin, 10 U/mL Streptomycin, 50 µg/mL Insulin, and 50
120 µM Hydrocortisone. HepaRG cells were maintained by incubation at 37°C in 5% CO₂. Reporter
121 viruses, HSV-1 KOS6β (wt) and *dlx3.1-6β* (ICP0-null mutant), were used in our assays and titer
122 as previously described (Davido et al., 2002; Davido et al., 2003). The cdk inhibitor, roscovitine,
123 was prepared in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) at a stock concentration of 50 mM (Schang et al.,
124 1998). The final concentrations of roscovitine were 50 µM and 100 µM.

125

126 *2.2 Optimization of high-throughput assay*

127 To optimize our assay, we examined the variables of fetal bovine serum (FBS) percentage,
128 multiplicity of infection (MOIs), infection period, β-galactosidase assay kinetics and stability.
129 HepaRG cells were seeded in 384-wells-plates, 25 µL of 6,750 cells per well, in phenol red-free

130 William's E Medium containing either 1% or 2% FBS, and incubated for 24 hours at 37°C in 5%
131 CO₂. Then, 10 µl of KOS-6β or dIx3.1-6β were added to wells at MOIs equivalent to 0, 0.2, 1, and
132 5. Infections proceeded for 6, 12, or 24 hours. At each time point, 10 µl of 1X lysis buffer (1%
133 Triton X-100; 20 mM Tris-HCl [pH 8.0]; 150 mM NaCl; 1 mM dithiothreitol) was added to each well
134 and incubated at 37°C for 20 minutes. A 4.5X β-Gal Assay buffer/CPRG solution was made with
135 Chlorophenol Red-β-D-galactopyranoside (CPRG) (Calbiochem) and 4.5X β-Gal Assay buffer
136 (2.475 mL 1M KCl; 19.8 mL 1M Phosphate buffer (pH 7.3); 225 µL 1M MgCl₂; 1.984 mL of 14.4
137 M BME; H₂O to 50 mL). The 4.5X β-Gal Assay buffer/CPRG solution was added to each well (10
138 µl/well) with a final concentration of 1 mg/mL. Absorbance was measured at 595nm at 5, 35, 80,
139 120, 1080 minutes post-addition of the β-Gal/CPRG solution with a PerkinElmer EnVision reader.
140

141 *2.3 Primary screen with roscovitine*

142 A primary screen was conducted using roscovitine (positive control) with optimized conditions
143 (Fig. 3). HepaRG cells were seeded in 384-wells-plates and incubated for 24 hours at 37°C in 5%
144 CO₂. Roscovitine was then transferred into each well echo 555 acoustically (Labcyte Inc.) and
145 preincubated for 40 minutes at 37°C in 5% CO₂. Reporter viruses, KOS-6β and dIx3.1-6β were
146 dispensed at MOI 5 and processed as described in section 2.2. For studying compound effects
147 on cell viability, HepaRG cells were treated with roscovitine for 12 hours. An ATP-based cell
148 viability assay was performed using Promega Cell-Titer Glo reagent according to manufacturer's
149 instructions. GraphPad Prism 8 was used to determine IC₅₀ and CC₅₀.

150

151 *2.4 Screen with KU-HTLS libraries and cell cytotoxicity*

152 HepaRG cells were seeded as previously described in 2.3. Each compound from the KU-HTLS
153 was transferred by echo 555 acoustically into each well for a final concentration of 10 µM. The
154 libraries included Selleck Bioactives, Natural Products (GreenPharma), CMLD Diversity,

155 Analyticon Natural Products, Life Natural Products. Each compound was preincubated for 40
156 minutes at 37°C in 5% CO₂. Then reporter viruses, KOS-6β and d/λ3.1-6β, were dispensed at an
157 MOI 5 per well, and processed as described in section 2.2. To eliminate compounds that are
158 potential false positive hits based on cytotoxicity we used Promega Cell-Titer Glo reagent
159 according to manufacturer's instructions. Each compound was incubated at 10 μM for 12 hours
160 prior to read.

161
162 *2.5 Cycloheximide block and release*
163 HepaRG cells were seeded as previously described in 2.3. Cycloheximide (CHX), protein
164 synthesis inhibitor, was transferred into each well for a final concentration of 50 μg/mL and
165 incubated for 1 hour. Then, KOS-6β and d/λ3.1-6β were dispensed at an MOI 5 per well. After 4
166 hours post infection, virus and CHX was washed off with phosphate-buffer saline twice. Complete
167 Williams E media was added to each well and the compounds were transferred by echo 555
168 acoustically into each well for a final concentration of 10 μM. After 20 hours of incubation, each
169 well was processed as described in section 2.2.

170
171 *2.6 Chemo-informatics screen*
172 The hits from the initial screen were clustered using Canvas by Schrodinger (Schrodinger
173 Release, 2017; Duan et al., 2010; Sastry et al., 2010). MACCS fingerprints were calculated for
174 each compound. Compounds were clustered using hierarchical clustering and leader-follower
175 clustering, with various merge distances/cluster radii. Leader-follower clustering of MACCS hits
176 with a cluster radius of 0.3 yielded visually intuitive clusters.

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180 **3. Results**

181 *3.1. Assay optimization*

182 We developed a colorimetric cell-based assay to monitor the transactivation activity of ICP0 in a
183 384-well plate format. The β -galactosidase viral reporter system allows for an automated
184 colorimetric screen to rapidly process large numbers of compounds. To optimize our screen we
185 examined several variables: serum levels, MOI, length of infectivity, and longevity of colorimetric
186 signal, as outlined in **Figure 2**. HepaRG cells, human hepatocytes, was selected for our cell-
187 based assay because they are easy to culture and are readily infected by HSV-1 (Everett et al.,
188 2008). To maintain viable growth conditions for HepaRG cells and reduce possible non-specific
189 binding of viral particles to serum, we tested 2 concentrations (1% or 2%) of fetal bovine serum
190 (FBS) in our medium. As shown in **Figure 3**, absorbance signals for β -galactosidase activity at
191 1% and 2% FBS remained <0.16 in absence of virus, demonstrating no effect on β -galactosidase
192 activity. Our assay utilizes reporter viruses, KOS6 β (wt) and *dx3.1-6 β* (ICP0-null mutant), that
193 have an ICP6 promoter::lacZ expression cassette. ICP0 is a specific and potent inducer of ICP6,
194 allowing us to utilize a β -galactosidase reporter system to monitor ICP0 transactivation activity. In
195 presence of KOS6 β or *dx3.1-6 β* , the absorbance remained consistent for either virus irrespective
196 of MOIs or time of infectivity. As 2% FBS did not appear to impact cell viability, we decided to
197 use media containing 2% FBS in future experiments.

198
199 We then examined MOIs at 0, 0.2, 1, and 5 PFU/cell to determine the optimal MOI for β -
200 galactosidase activity signal. With KOS6 β , absorbance signals ranged from 0.5 to 1.5, with a MOI
201 of 5 reaching optimal signal by 24 hours post-infection (hpi). The MOIs of 0.2, 1, and 5 were
202 clearly differentiated at 12 hours post-infection, irrespective of FBS concentration. By 24 hpi β -
203 galactosidase levels of cells infected at MOIs of 0.2 and 1 began to approach those samples with
204 an MOI of 5. For *dx3.1-6 β* infections at the lower MOIs (i.e., 0.2 and 1.0), the absorbance was
205 at background levels, regardless of the infection time point. A reproducible increase in

206 absorbance (2-3-fold) at an MOI of 5 by 24 hpi was observed compared to mock-infected cells.
207 These data indicate that ICP0 strongly transactivates the ICP6 promoter of HSV-1, mirroring
208 results from other published reports. We ultimately used an of MOI of 5, as it gave the highest
209 signal relative to the background control for both reporter viruses.

210

211 The kinetics of β -galactosidase activity for all groups were analyzed at 6, 12, and 24 hpi. For
212 KOS6 β , β -galactosidase expression was noticeably detected at 6 hpi for all MOIs, with
213 absorbance values showing marginal to substantial increases by 12 and 24 hpi. 24 hpi was
214 selected as optimal infection time point, as maximal β -galactosidase activities were observed with
215 the reporter viruses at an MOI of 5.

216

217 Lastly, we analyzed the stability of β -galactosidase assay after stop solution was added and
218 absorbance read 5, 35, 80, 120, and 1080 minutes later. There appeared to be no visible
219 differences in the absolute absorbance values between time points relative to the MOI used or
220 time of infection. Given the stability of β -galactosidase activities, all subsequently assays were
221 read 1080 minutes after stop solution was added. In summary, we selected the optimized
222 conditions of 2% FBS, MOI of 5, 24 hpi, and 1080 minutes plate reads for our reporter assays.

223

224 *3.2. Assay validation: primary screen with roscovitine*

225 After establishing our final conditions, this assay was initially validated in a screen setting.
226 Roscovitine, a broad cdks inhibitor, blocks the expression of many HSV-1 genes. Consequently,
227 roscovitine was used as a positive control to validate the inhibition of HSV-1 gene expression in
228 our reporter assay. Cells were pre-treated for 40 minutes with roscovitine over a range of
229 concentrations. As shown in **Figure 5**, a sigmoidal-dose response was obtained for inhibition of
230 roscovitine against the two HSV-1 reporter viruses. Roscovitine showed an inhibitory

231 concentration of 50% (IC₅₀) at 17.39 μ M for KOS6 β and 8.18 μ M for *dx3.1-6 β* . Approximately
232 50% loss of cell viability was observed with 100 μ M roscovitine.

233

234 *3.3. Assay robustness and reproducibility*

235 This assay was tested for its robustness and reproducibility to be used in screening libraries of
236 small molecule inhibitors. With KOS6 β , roscovitine at 50 μ M and 100 μ M had a 3.75- and 9.3-
237 fold reduction in β -galactosidase activity, respectively, compared with untreated controls (**Figure**
238 **6**). This validates the sensitivity of our assay with the use of a known small molecule inhibitor of
239 HSV-1 gene expression. Furthermore, wells only containing the reporter virus, KOS6 β , exhibited
240 a low absorbance signal (0.16 ± 0.014), whereas wells infected with KOS6 β and treated with
241 roscovitine reached an average Abs of 0.8 ± 0.048 and 0.32 ± 0.042 at 50 μ M and 100 μ M
242 concentrations, respectively. To assess the quality of the high-throughput assay the Z',
243 screening window coefficient was calculated (**Figure 6**). The Z' score is a statistical indicator of
244 assay quality, measuring assay signal dynamic range, data variation associated with sample
245 measurement, and data variation associated with reference controls. A score between 0.5 and 1
246 indicates suitability of assay for high throughput screening (Zhang et al., 1999). The Z'-factor for
247 all samples were above ≥ 0.69 , indicative of good separation of the positive and negative
248 controls in our assay.

249

250 *3.4 Screen with KU-HTLS: pilot screen and secondary screen*

251 We employed our high-throughput assay and screened ~19,000 compounds from the High
252 Throughput Screening Laboratory at the University of Kansas (KU-HTSL). The KU-HTSL is a
253 collection of diverse small molecules with unique scaffolds from several commercial vendors.
254 The small molecule compounds screened included bioactive FDA approved inhibitors, natural
255 product scaffolds amenable to chemical synthesis, purified drug-like compounds, and purified

256 secondary metabolites. The screen of ~19,000 compounds at 10 μ M resulted in a hit rate of
257 4.6%, 840 compounds, focusing on compounds above 3 standard deviations from the plate
258 median. To eliminate false positives due to cytotoxicity of the compounds, ATP levels were
259 measured for cell viability. The cytotoxicity assay reduced the number of hits to 349 compounds,
260 hit rate of 1.9%. To help assess if the compounds are directly or indirectly blocking ICP0
261 transactivation activity we employed a secondary assay, a cycloheximide (CHX) block and
262 release. CHX blocks protein synthesis and allows ICP0 transcripts to accumulate. At 4 hpi, the
263 CHX block is released and each compound is added when ICP0 protein is expressed. The
264 secondary assay resulted in 76 final hits, a 0.4% hit rate, which helped focus our efforts on
265 specific compounds. We then utilized a chemo-informatic approach (Canvas by Schrodinger) to
266 cluster compounds based on chemical structure and filter-out compounds that are potentially
267 promiscuous or reactive. This resulted in 42 clusters, including singletons, and eliminated 6 hits
268 flagged as pan-assay interference compounds (PAINS).

269

270 *3.4.1 Clusters & singletons: trichothecenes, lipopeptides, and cyclin-dependent kinases*

271 One cluster of 10 compounds were identified to be a family of trichothecenes, secondary
272 metabolites, produced by fungi. Trichothecenes are a class of sesquiterpenes and a few of
273 these compounds were examined with HSV. Previous studies have shown the inhibitory effect
274 of trichothecenes may be due to the binding of the compound to the polyribosomes, inhibiting
275 viral protein synthesis (Tani et al., 1995; Okazaki et al., 1992; Okazaki et al., 1988). Another
276 cluster resulted in two compounds of cyclic lipopeptides, biosurfactants produced by *Bacillus*
277 *subtilis*. A previous study showed treatment with one of these lipopeptides reduced HSV-1 titers
278 by >25,000-fold (Vollenbroich et al., 1997).

279

280 Several singletons, unique chemical structures, were pan-cdk inhibitors. Cellular cdks have
281 been shown to be required for HSV-1 replication and transcription, regulating ICP0 function

282 (Schang et al., 1998; Davido et al., 2003; Davido et al., 2002). One hit compound we identified,
283 a known cdk-7 and -9 inhibitor, was shown to inhibit expression of all immediate-early genes
284 including ICP0 (Hou et al., 2017). Overall, the previously studied hits (**Figure 7**) are proof of
285 concept that our high-throughput assay is capable of identifying inhibitors of HSV-1. In future
286 studies, we will examine the novel compounds and inhibitors identified from our library screen to
287 determine the extent and mechanism of HSV-1 and ICP0 inhibition.

288

289 **4. Discussion**

290 ICP0 is a crucial viral regulatory protein that can dictate lytic infection or latency during an HSV-
291 1 infection. We and others have demonstrated that ICP0 is a potent transactivator to all classes
292 of HSV-1 genes, stimulating viral infection and reactivation. ICP0 is an attractive target for the
293 development of novel antiherpetics, and such antivirals would be expected to limit HSV-1 lytic
294 infection from reactivation. To date, identification of compounds that specifically inhibit ICP0 are
295 limited.

296

297 To achieve this goal, we established a chemical-biological assay utilizing HSV-1 reporter viruses
298 that allowed us to monitoring ICP0 transactivation function in tandem with small molecule
299 compounds. Our optimization experiments led us to select the conditions of 2% FBS, MOI of 5 for
300 the reporter viruses, 24 hpi, and measuring β -galactosidase 1080 minutes after the addition of
301 stop solution. The assay achieved a robust and reproducible Z'-factor of ≥ 0.69 for various
302 controls, which meets high throughput screening criteria. The sensitivity and effectiveness of the
303 reporter system was validated using the broad cdk inhibitor, roscovitine, which displayed a dose-
304 dependent response with the reporter viruses. Overall, this method was optimized to produce
305 consistent and reproducible measurements for monitoring ICP0 transactivating activity in a high-
306 throughput approach.

307

308 Our system described confers several advantages over other assays. One is the simplicity of the
309 assay, where all components are added directly to the 384-well plate, requiring minimal handling
310 of the samples and practically all steps are automated. The reporter viruses provide another
311 advantage, as the lacZ gene enables for a simple, inexpensive, and direct colorimetric screen for
312 β -galactosidase activity. Previous assays utilized radioactive substrates or expensive equipment
313 in fluorescent-based assays (Sekulovich *et al.*, 1988); our approach eliminates those potential
314 issues. Additionally, this assay provides a rapid and feasible method to screen multiple libraries
315 of small molecule compounds in a 384-well plate format, which require small amounts of
316 compounds for testing that are in micromolar range. Lastly, our high-throughput assay has the
317 potential to be used in combination with other genetic screens (e.g., CRISPR/Cas9) to identify
318 novel cellular factors involved in HSV-1 replication. Future work will be focused on determining
319 how several of the 76 hits we identified in our screen inhibit HSV-1.

320

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322

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329 views of the NIH.

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335 **Figure Legends**

336 **Figure 1. Diagram of reporter viruses.** The background strain used in this approach is KOS, an
337 HSV-1 wt strain (not drawn to scale), with unique long (U_L) and unique short (U_S) regions of the
338 genome flanked by an inverted repeat sequences (ab U_L b'a' and a'c' U_S ca). Two arrows
339 represent ICP0 which contains two copies in the HSV-1 genome, and ICP0 is a specific inducer
340 of ICP6. The reporter viruses KOS6 β and *dlx3.1-6 β* both contain a ICP6 promoter fused with a
341 lacZ reporter gene cassette inserted between the UL49 and UL50 genes of HSV-1. *dlx3.1-6 β* , an
342 ICP0-null mutant, has a 3.1 kb deletion in both copies of ICP0 gene. This figure is adapted from
343 Davido, *et al.*, 2003.

344

345 **Figure 2. Schematic of optimization assay.** Serum percentage, multiplicity of infection (MOI),
346 infection period, and β -galactosidase stability. Schematic of optimization process: 6,750 HepaRG
347 cells were seeded in each well of 384-well plates with 1% or 2% FBS, incubated at 37°C in 5%
348 CO₂ for 24 hours. Cells were then infected with KOS6 β or *dlx3.1-6 β* at MOIs of 0, 0.2, 1, and 5.
349 β -galactosidase levels were analyzed at 6 hpi, 12 hpi, and 24 hpi using CPRG. β -galactosidase
350 stability was examined at 5, 35, 80, 120, 1080 minutes. (Further description of assay is described
351 in Methods section.)

352

353 **Figure 3. Optimization results.** Histograms show optimization results of: (A) KOS6 β infection
354 and (B) *dlx3.1-6 β* infection. For each reporter virus the data compares: 1% or 2% FBS, MOIs: 0,
355 0.2, 1, and 5, and β -galactosidase levels at 6 hpi, 12 hpi, and 24 hpi using CPRG, and assay
356 stability from 5 to 1080 minutes.

357

358 **Figure 4. Schematic of Primary Screen.** The assay used 2% of FBS, 5 PFU/cell for both reporter
359 viruses, and 24 hpi. The approach was tested on a known small molecule inhibitor of HSV gene

360 expression, roscovitine, as a positive control and the negative control, DMSO (0.6%). This
361 approach was also used to screen multiple compound libraries.

362

363 **Figure 5. Inhibition of β -galactosidase activity from reporter viruses by roscovitine.** To

364 confirm the activity of roscovitine in our assay, dose-dependent responses to β -galactosidase
365 expression and cytotoxicity were measured.

366

367 **Figure 6. Well plate uniformity.** Scatterplot of 16 wells examining in samples containing

368 KOS6 β , cells and KOS6 β and DMSO (0.6%), KOS6 β -infected cells plus roscovitine (50 μ M), or

369 KOS6 β -infected cells plus roscovitine (100 μ M). The average and standard deviation from each

370 sample was measured to calculate the Z' score.

371

372 **Table 1. Select hits from KU-HTLS screen.** The optimized high-throughput assay was utilized

373 to screen 19,000 diverse compounds from the KU-HTLS. After application of the primary and

374 secondary screens, we had 76 final hits (KU-identifiers). From these hits, we identified a family of

375 trichothecenes, two lipopeptides and several cdk inhibitors (with KU identifiers) as potent

376 inhibitors in our assay.

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386 **Figures**

387 Figure 1.

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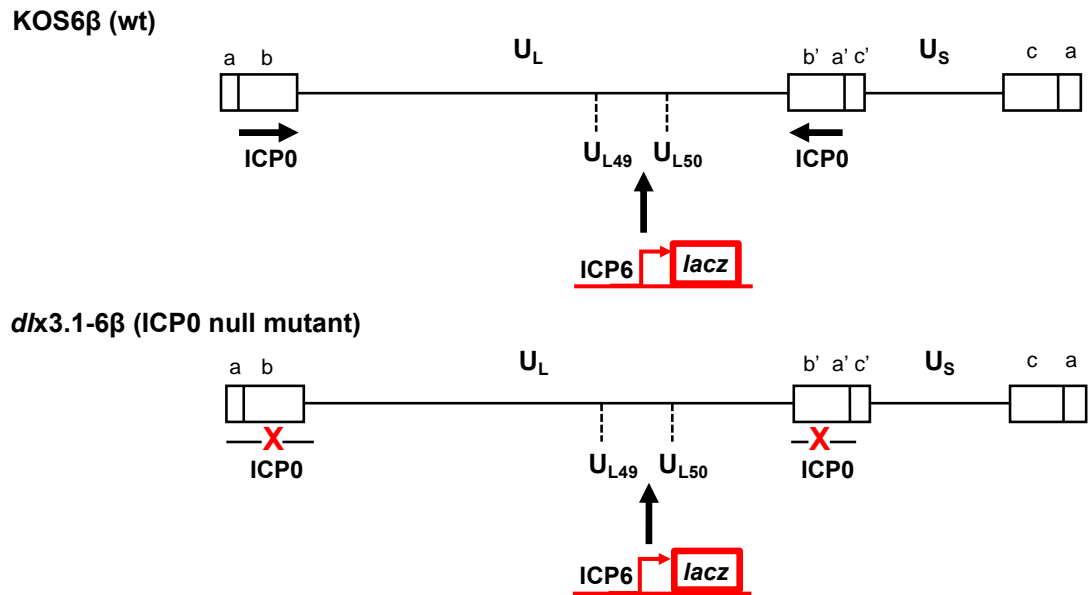
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398 Figure 2.

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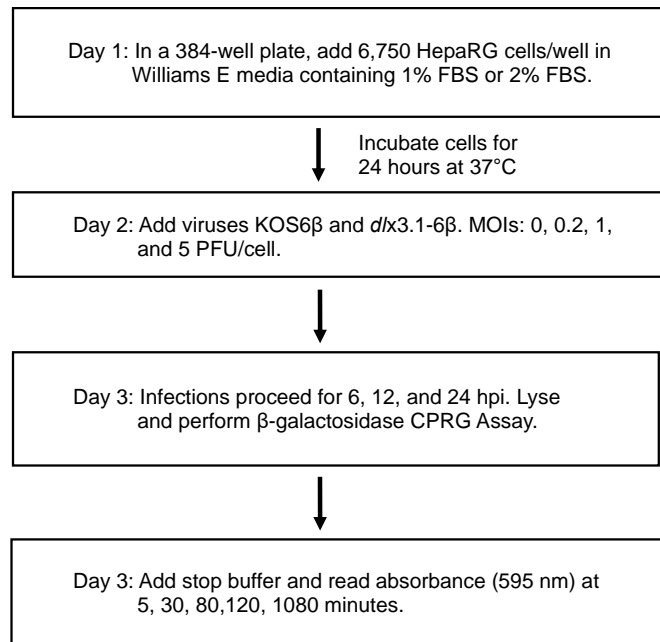
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412 Figure 3.

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427 Figure 4.

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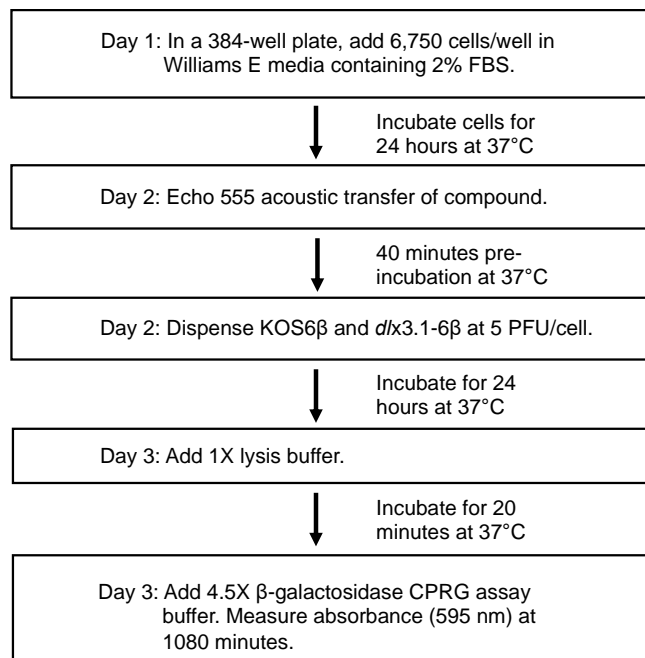
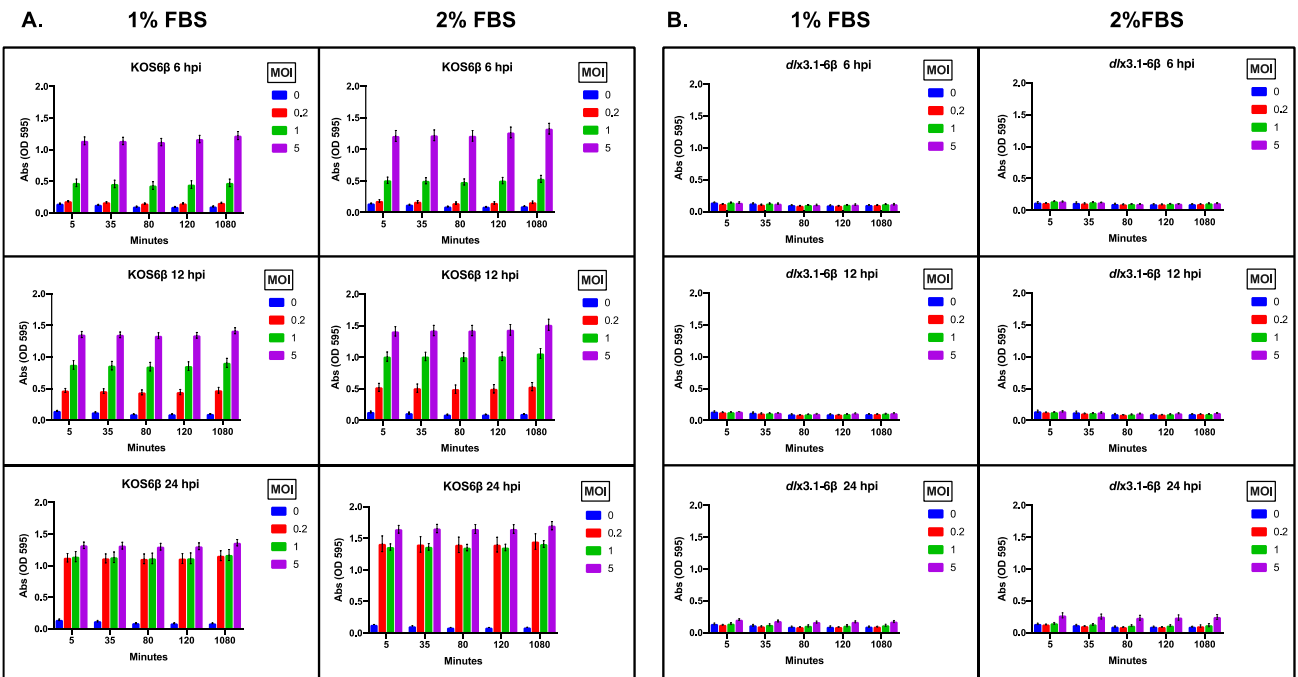
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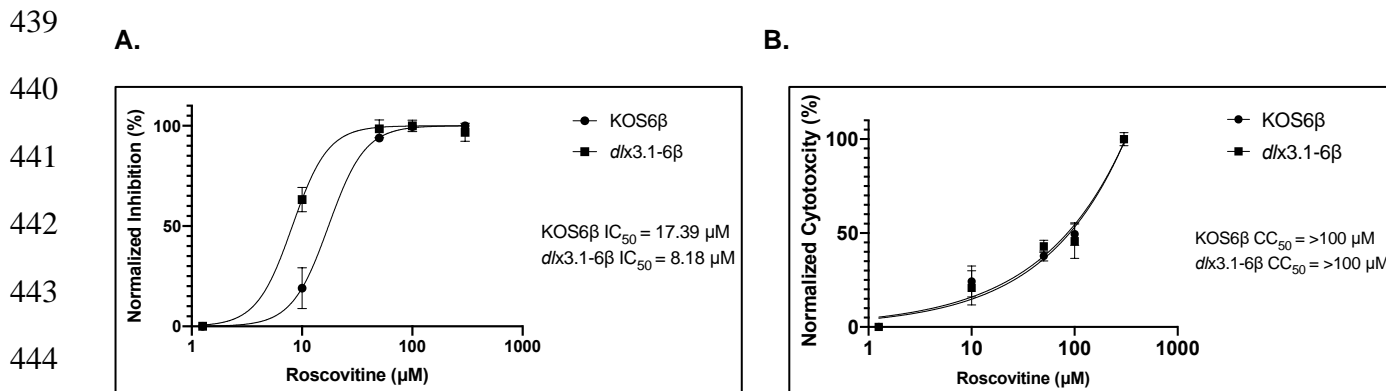
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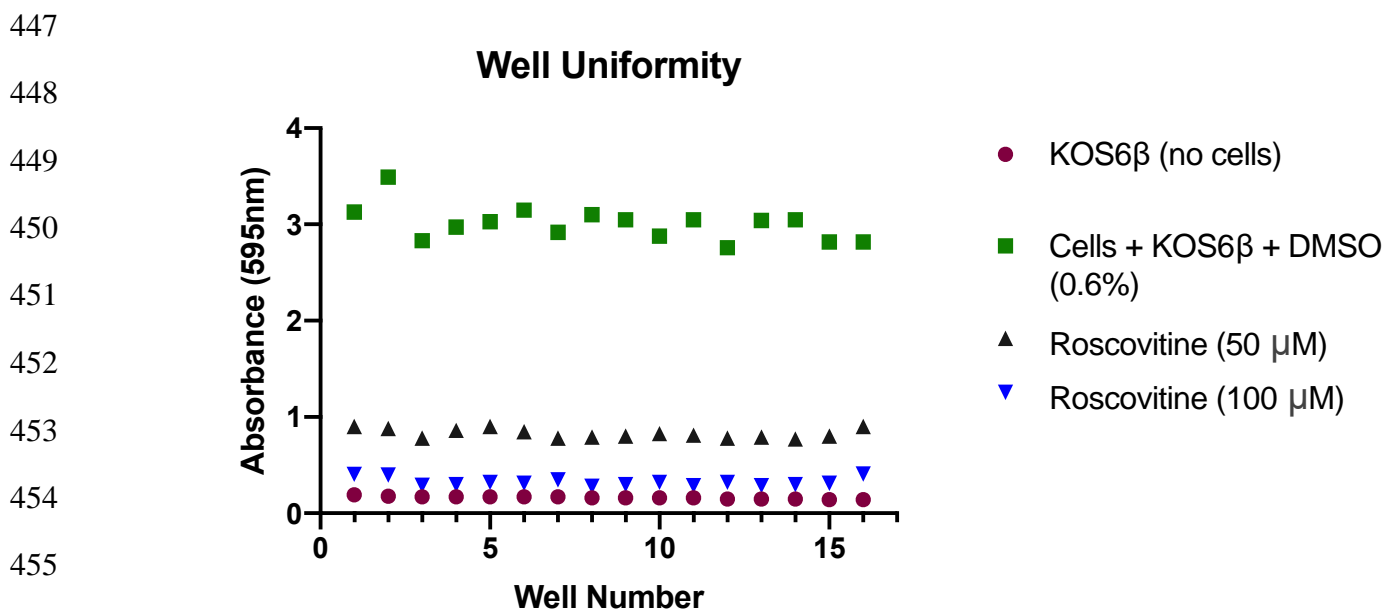


438 Figure 5.



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446 Figure 6.



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Sample	Average	Standard Deviation	Z'	Number of wells
KOS6 β (no cells)	0.16	0.014	0.79	16
Cells + KOS6 β + DMSO (0.6%)	3.01	0.170	-	16
Roscovitine (50 μM)	0.80	0.048	0.69	16
Roscovitine (100 μM)	0.32	0.042	0.75	16

464 Table 1.

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Compounds	Percent Inhibition in Primary Screen	Percent Inhibition in Secondary Screen
Trichothecenes		
KU0188522	100	99
KU0280950	93	95
KU0281790	100	99
KU0281792	99	99
KU0282448	90	91
KU0283070	100	99
KU0283235	98	99
KU0283795	97	97
KU0283847	101	100
Lipopeptides		
KU0283335	100	99
KU0283824	100	94
Cyclin-Dependent Kinase Inhibitors		
KU0191030	97	96
KU0190175	90	95
KU0190205	94	96
KU0189256	99	97
KU0190358	99	95
KU0190362	98	96

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