Valnoctamide as an Anti-viral Agent

**Description:**

**Valnoctamide (VCD) inhibits Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection**

- CMV is the most common infectious cause of congenital birth defects in fetuses and can generate debilitating disease in immunocompromised patients.
- Current anti-CMV drugs are only partially effective, teratogenic and not recommended for fetal exposure.
- VCD is already FDA approved for the treatment of epilepsy and mood disorders.
- In *in vitro* studies, VCD effectively inhibited human and murine CMV.
- In a mouse model of perinatal infection, VCD safely attenuated murine CMV and improved both survival and development.
- VCD appears to act by a novel mechanism arising from inhibition of CMV attachment to the cell.
- **Reference:** Ornaghi *et al.* (2016) Virology
- **Lead Innovator:** Anthony van den Pol, PhD
- **IP status:** Application filed PCT/US2017/030966

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