PHOTONS, FLU AND LIFE AND DEATH

PETER COLMAN

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, Australia

Structural biology is in the mainstream of drug discovery. Two examples will be discussed.

Designed drugs for influenza emerged in the 1990s and have been in use for nearly 20 years. Can one design drugs against moving targets?

A new class of cancer medicines was launched in 2017, building on a 1988 discovery in Melbourne that there are genes for keeping cells alive. These drugs restore the functioning of the cell’s suicide machinery.