In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientists began considering prophylactic and therapeutic options for those who became ill from the virus and those who might be at greatest risk of getting infected. This webinar will focus on two promising approaches: (1) the use of human convalescent plasma (HCP) treatment; and (2) the development of novel and repurposing of existing antiviral drugs like Remdesivir.

Dr. Arturo Casadevall, who with his colleagues has conducted groundbreaking clinical research into HCP treatment as a promising therapy for COVID-19, will describe the science behind this therapy, the mechanism and the progress his team has made working with FDA to conduct trials of the therapy on patients in viral hotspots like New York City.

Dr. Mark Denison’s lab has focused on antiviral development since 2013 and initiated and led all preclinical testing for the highly active and broad spectrum antiviral Remdesivir. Remdesivir was previously tested in humans with Ebola virus disease and has shown promise in animal models for treating Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which are caused by other coronaviruses.

Discussion points:
• For HCP treatment, what barriers exist to appropriately scaling this approach when it relies on plasma from recovered patients?
• What have we learned from the pursuit of antivirals against other coronaviruses, such as Remdesivir and others that can be applied to this disease? What remaining clinical questions need to be answered?
• What is needed to continue to move these efforts forward in both the short and long term, and what can Congress do?

Learn more about our efforts here.

Questions? Contact Mary Lee Watts at mwatts@asmusa.org