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COVER ILLUSTRATION

On the cover the crystal structure of the 3C-like protease from the norovirus Chiba strain (PDB entry 1WQS) is shown. The 3C-like protease adopts a cymotrypsin-like fold, but its catalytically active nucleophile is a cysteine residue. The norovirus protease is solely responsible for the processing of the viral polyprotein, resulting in the generation of viral proteins. In his article on page 41–56 in this issue, Yuichi Someya reviews factors determining substrate specificity and discusses the possible proteolytic mechanism of the enzyme. The data might be useful for the development of therapeutic drugs for medication of gastroenteritis evoked by noroviruses. Image courtesy of Yuichi Someya, Department of Virology II, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan.



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