



Luis M. Schang, DVM, Ph.D.
Associate Professor,
Department of Biochemistry
Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology, and
Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology,
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Luis Schang earned his veterinary degree from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He moved to the USA in June 1991, to pursue a Ph.D. in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, first studying the effect of pseudorabies vaccines on latency with Dr. F. Osorio, and then latency of bovine herpesvirus type-1 with Dr. C. Jones. He defended his Ph.D. in December 1995, and moved to the University of Pennsylvania in August 1996 to work with the late Dr. P.A. Schaffer on the roles of cellular protein kinases in replication and gene expression of herpes simplex viruses 1 and 2 (HSV-1, HSV-2). He moved to Edmonton, Canada, in November 2000 to take an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Alberta. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2005 and will be Full Professor from July 1, 2012. He is cross-appointed to the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology since 2001 and is a member of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology since its opening in 2011. His research is centered on using chemical biology, molecular, virological, biophysical, and advanced imaging techniques to explore the roles of cellular factors on viral replication and pathogenesis. He is particularly interested in the epigenetic regulation of HSV-1 gene expression, the roles of cellular protein kinases on gene expression and DNA replication of HSV-1 and other viruses, and innovative approaches to antivirals. Dr. Schang discovered the effects of small molecule inhibitors of cellular CDKs (so-called PCIs) on HSV-1 gene expression. He was one of the first strong supporters of cellular proteins as targets for antiviral drugs. More recently, Dr. Schang's group discovered the particularly unstable nature of the nucleosomes containing HSV-1 DNA and the mobilization of core and linker histones in lytically infected cells. His group also discovered the RAFIs, novel inhibitors of the infectivity of enveloped viruses, including herpesviruses, which act on virion envelope lipids to prevent the formation of the negative curvature required for fusion to cellular membranes, and characterized the antiviral mechanisms of EGCG, a green tea catechin active against HSV-1, HSV-2, cytomegalovirus, and many other viruses. His research is funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF), PrioNet and APRI among other sources.