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## ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to clone the HCV genotype 3a structural genes Core and E1 cDNA into the inducible expression plasmid of the T-REX system that allows expression to be stringently controlled. An attempt was made to make an expression system, in hepatoma cells grown in culture, to identify the impact of CORE and E1 on the cellular phenotype of the host cells.

A better understanding of the function of these two proteins in terms of their impact in signaling pathways in hepatocytes has the potential of leading towards the discovery of new drugs that inhibit their respective activities by hindering their respective functions and thus impairing the progression of the disease.