

Is a new therapy for diabetes on the way?

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Singapore: In a breakthrough discovery, Korean scientists have identified that regulating the effect of a protein related to the detoxification function of the liver, can improve diabetes.

The research team at the Korea Basic Science Institute (KBSI) indicated that controlling the activation of CYP4A, could be a new arm in the treatment of diabetes. CYP4A is a membrane protein involved in the detoxification and drug metabolism of the liver.

Lead researcher, Dr Kim Gun-hwa said that the liver of a mouse suffering from diabetes had too much of CYP4A as compared to a normal mouse. He explained that down-regulating the expression of CYP4A in the liver, by manipulating the CYP4A gene, led to a decrease in diabetes related symptoms.

Dr Gun-hwa observed, "We have discovered a candidate material for a new drug for diabetes that has no side effects. This new drug could change the way in which diabetes is treated and provide relief to millions of sufferers."