

PublisherInfo		
PublisherName	:	BioMed Central
PublisherLocation	:	London
PublisherImprintName	:	BioMed Central

Earlier than immediate-early

ArticleInfo		
ArticleID	:	3718
ArticleDOI	:	10.1186/gb-spotlight-20000706-01
ArticleCitationID	:	spotlight-20000706-01
ArticleSequenceNumber	:	155
ArticleCategory	:	Research news
ArticleFirstPage	:	1
ArticleLastPage	:	2
ArticleHistory	:	RegistrationDate : 2000-07-06 OnlineDate : 2000-07-06
ArticleCopyright	:	BioMed Central Ltd2000
ArticleGrants	:	
ArticleContext	:	130591111

William Wells

Email: wells@biotext.com

The definition of a virus as a DNA or RNA virus, based on its genetic material, is now on shaky ground thanks to the findings of Bresnahan and Shenk in the 30 June *Science*. Using a gene array, they find that particles of human cytomegalovirus (HCMV), a large DNA virus, contain four different mRNAs (*Science* 2000, **288**:2373-2376). The mRNAs are derived from one immediate-early gene, two early genes and one late gene, but translation from at least one of the packaged mRNAs peaks before there is detectable translation from the most abundant immediate-early mRNA. The functions of the four mRNAs is unknown, but the protein product from one of the mRNAs is directed to the Golgi network. This co-translational sorting would not occur if the mRNA species was replaced in the virion by a protein.

References

1. Science magazine, [<http://www.sciencemag.org/>]