Structural aspects of encapsidation signals in RNA viruses
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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift:

"Structural aspects of encapsidation signals in RNA viruses"

1. The repeating-AA-bulge model for the group IIa coronavirus packaging signal is superior to the stem-loop model proposed by Fosmire *et al.* (1992). (This thesis, Chapter III; Fosmire *et al.*, 1992, *J. Virol.* **66**:3522-3530).

2. The presence of a similar hairpin in the 5' untranslated region of *Bamboo mosaic virus* genomic RNA and its satellites may hold the key to the satRNA-mediated attenuation of this virus.
    (This thesis, Chapter VII).

3. The structural homology between the 5' ends of their genomic RNAs is related to the coronavirus lineage.

    (This thesis, Chapter IV).

4. The RNA sequence reported by Hsieh *et al.* (2005) is unlikely to be the real packaging signal of SARS coronavirus.

    (This thesis, Chapter IV; Hsieh *et al.*, 2005, *J. Virol.* **79**:13848-13855).

5. Repeated sequence and/or structural motifs are characteristic for packaging signals of RNA viruses, and this feature can be used to identify new packaging signals.

6. The primer recommended by the World Health Organization to amplify the 3' end of segment 5 of the H1N1-09 pandemic virus is poorly designed.

    (http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/sequencing_primers/en/index.html)

7. Submitting invented sequences to GenBank should be prevented.

8. We still can do nothing if SARS coronavirus is coming back.

9. We have tried everything to keep out influenza viruses.

10. Doing research is just like riding a bicycle on a frozen road on a windy and snowy night.

Leiden, 28 april 2010   Shih-Cheng Chen