

Could a bacteria-killing protein lead to a new treatment for diabetes?

Pound LD, et al. *Diabetes*. 2015; 64 (12): 4135.

Why would a bacteria-killing protein be present in an area of the body that is not normally exposed to bacteria, like the pancreas? Researchers have puzzled over this question for some time, until they eventually discovered that the protein in question was doing something entirely unexpected -- it was actually helping the pancreas regenerate and produce insulin. This **bacteria-killing protein, called cathelicidin antimicrobial peptide (CAMP)**, is produced by the same pancreatic cells that produce insulin in rats, mice and humans. **When pancreatic cells in the laboratory were treated with CAMP, it was found to double insulin secretion.** When diabetes-prone rats were injected with CAMP, signs of increased regeneration appeared in the pancreas. **This novel discovery could lead to a new treatment for diabetes.**