_____, Ph.D. — has identified a novel series of SARS-CoV-2 Mpro inhibitors that may lead to potential new COVID-19 treatments that, according to preclinical testing, effectively inhibits COVID-19 and synergizes with existing anti-COVID therapies. Their new discovery is detailed in the paper, "Design of novel and highly selective SARS-CoV-2 main protease inhibitors," published in the journal *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy.*

Despite effective vaccines approved for use worldwide, COVID-19 continues to contribute to mortality and morbidity — an issue compounded by the problems of vaccine & therapy access. However, the existing drug designs in use for COVID-19 therapy lend themselves to drug interactions and the risk of incomplete viral inhibition.

To address this problem, Salvino — a medicinal chemist at Wistar —