CLAIMS:

1. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a peptide comprising the sequence twftfin or an analog or derivative of twftfin of the formula A1-A2-A3-A4-A5-A6-A7, where A1 is t or w, A2 is k or w, A3 is s or f, A4 is r or t, A5 is f, h, i, n, or w, A6 is i or d, and A7 is n or a, where the peptide has a length of about 30 residues or less, or a pharmaceutical composition of any of the foregoing, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating an infection caused at least in part by a matrix protein layer virus or an enveloped virus in a host animal, where the virus is not an influenza virus or an orthomyxovirus.

2. The use of claim 1 wherein A1-A2 is tk, tw, or ww.

3. The use of claim 1 or 2 wherein A2-A3 is ks or wf.

4. The use of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein A1-A2-A3 is tks or twf.

5. The use of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein A3-A4 is sr or ft.

6. The use of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein A2-A3-A4 is ksr or wft.

7. The use of any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein A5 is f, i, or w.

8. The use of any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein A6 is i.

9. The use of any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein A7 is n.

10. The use of any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein A7 is a.

11. The use of any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the peptide comprises twfrfin, twfffin, twftfin, wwftfin, or wwftfia.

12. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the virus is a retrovirus, lentivirus, paramyxovirus, flavivirus, hepatitis C virus, tick borne encephalitis, yellow fever, dengue fever virus, filovirus, togavirus, bunyavirus, herpesvirus, hepadnavirus, or coronavirus.

13. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the virus is HIV, Ebola, Marburg virus, rubella virus, hantavirus, arenavirus, cytomegalovirus, hepatitis B virus, or torovirus.

14. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the infection is AIDS, herpes, or SARS.

15. The use of any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein the peptide comprises the sequence RRKKctwftfinc (PSP IV A17), RRKKcwwftfinc (PSP V A19), or RRKKcwwftfiac (PSP VI A1).

16. The use of any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein the peptide further comprises an N-terminal and/or C-terminal cysteine residue.

17. The use of any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein the peptide further comprising one or more solubility tags, each of which is independently selected

18. The use of any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the peptide is in cyclic form.

19. The use of any one of claims 1 to 18 wherein the medicament is adapted for administration nasally, pulmonarilly, orally or parenterally.

20. The use of any one of claims 1 to 19 wherein the medicament is for prophylactic treatment.