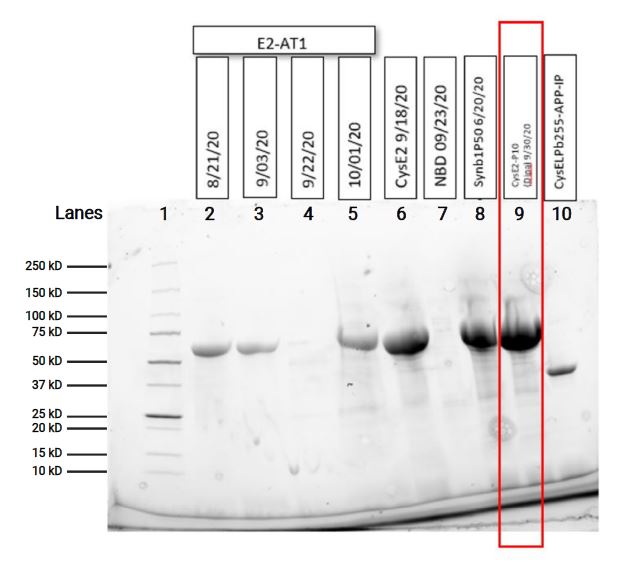
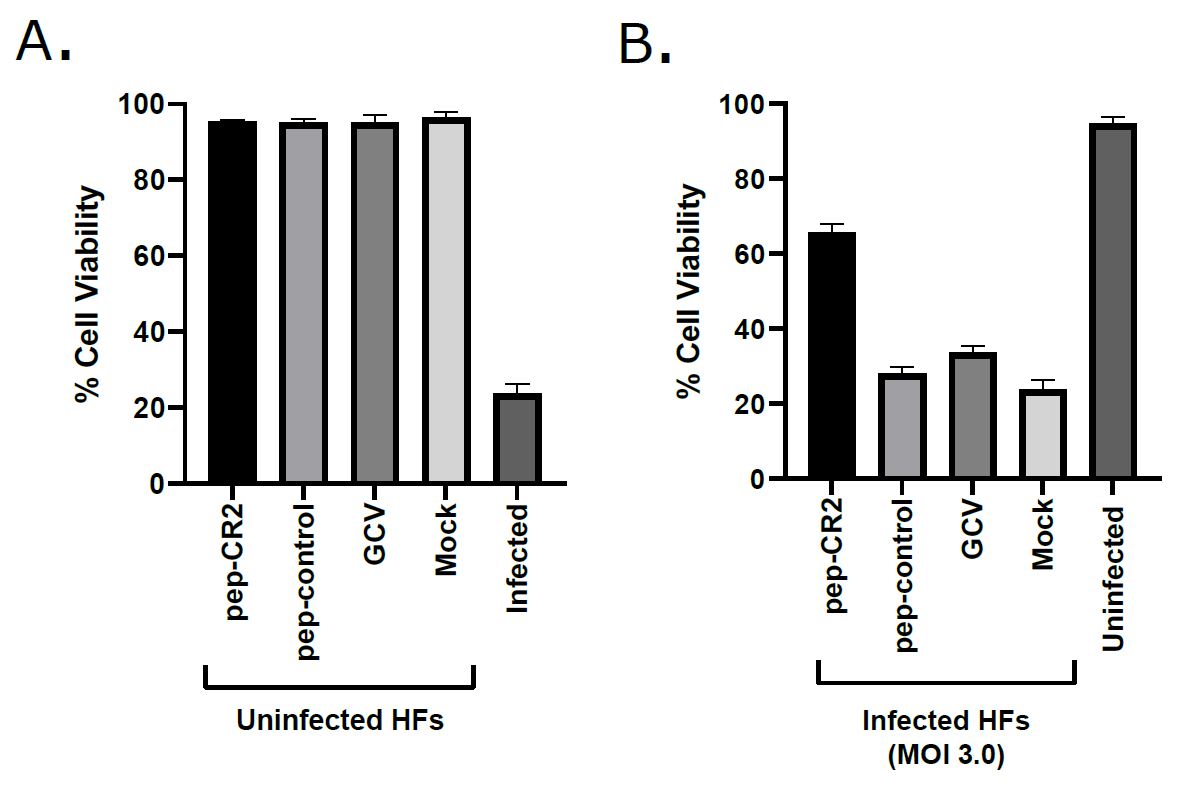


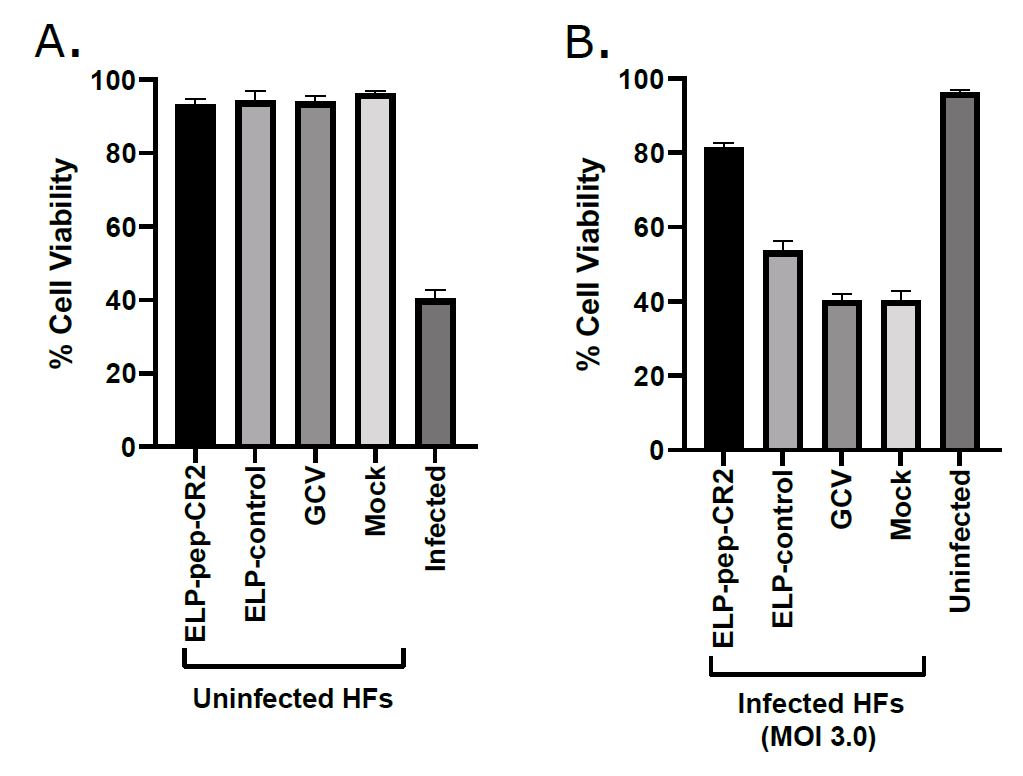
**Figure S1. Coding sequence of ELP-peptide construct.** The pep-CR2 coding sequence was inserted into a plasmid vector between NdeI and BamHI restriction sites, with an SfiI site at the N-terminus of pep-CR2 coding sequence. The entire coding sequence was cloned into pET 25b+ at the NdeI and BamHI sites. The ELP coding sequence was excised from pUC19-ELP and cloned into the SfiI site, generating an in-frame fusion of ELP and pep-CR2.

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**Figure S2. Expression of ELP-pep-CR2.**ELP-peptide was expressed and purified for CMV inhibition assays as described in [Materials and Methods](https://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/article?id=10.1371/journal.ppat.1009803#sec002). ELP-pep-CR2 purification was verified by SDS-PAGE and visualized using fluorescence imaging of 4-15% Mini-PROTEAN TGX Stain-Free Protein gels (Bio-Rad Laboratories, USA; catalog# 4568084). The ELP-pep-CR2 protein was obtained at high purity and at the expected molecular weight (~62.5 kD) on the SDS-PAGE gel. Lane 1—protein ladder (Bio-Rad Precision Plus Protein Unstained Standards), Lane 2 to 8 and 10 – NA, Lane 9 – ELP-pep-CR2 (highlighted with red box).

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**Figure S3. Cell viability (%) in A) pep-CR2 treated uninfected cells vs. B) pep-CR2 treated infected cells.** Cells were pretreated with pep-CR2 as well as with appropriate controls (pep-control and GCV) or mock for 1 hour and were then either infected with HCMV at a high MOI of 3.0 or mock-infected. Cell viability was performed by trypan blue exclusion assay at 5 dpi for both groups. Results indicate that pep-CR2 protects cells from virus induced lytic cell death.

**Figure S4. Cell viability (%) in A) ELP-pep-CR2 treated uninfected cells vs. B) ELP-pep-CR2 treated infected cells.** Cells were pretreated with ELP-pep-CR2 at 80.5 µM concentration as well as with appropriate controls (ELP-control at 89.3 µM and GCV at 10 µM concentration) or mock for 1 hour and were then either infected with HCMV at a high MOI of 3.0 or left uninfected. Cell viability was performed by trypan blue exclusion test at 5 dpi for both groups. Results indicated that ELP-pep-CR2 protects cells from virus induced lytic cell death.