

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Certificate | |
| Acknowledgments | |
| Abbreviations and symbols | |
| Abstract | |
| | Page No. |
| Chapter 1. Molecular basis of HIV-1 pathogenesis: General Overview. | |
| 1.1 The AIDS magnitude | 1 |
| 1.2 Genomic organization of HIV-1 | 2 |
| 1.3 The replicative cycle of HIV-1 | 5 |
| 1.4 HIV-1 subtype diversity | 6 |
| 1.5 Co-receptor usage, cell tropism and syncytium inducibility | 8 |
| 1.6 Currently available anti-HIV therapy | 9 |
| 1.7 HIV-1 pathogenesis | 10 |
| 1.8 Host Cell factors in HIV-1 pathogenesis | 12 |
| 1.9 HIV-1 induced T-cell depletion | 14 |
| 1.10 Apoptosis | 15 |
| 1.10.1 Characteristic features of apoptotic cell death | 15 |
| 1.10.2 Major proteins involved in apoptotic cell death | 18 |
| 1.10.3 Pathways in apoptotic death signaling | 21 |
| 1.11 Apoptosis in HIV-1 infection | 26 |
| 1.11.1 Apoptosis by syncytia formation | 26 |
| 1.11.2 Activation-induced cell death (AICD) | 26 |
| 1.11.3 Autologous infected cell-mediated killing (ACAD) | 27 |
| 1.11.4 Effect of cytokines on HIV-associated apoptosis | 27 |
| 1.11.5 p53 and HIV-1 induced apoptosis | 28 |
| 1.11.6 Role of viral proteins in HIV-1 induced apoptosis | 28 |
| 1.12 Aims and Objectives | 35 |
| 1.13 References | 37 |
| | |
| Chapter 2. CD4+ T cell depletion: HIV-1 induces apoptosis in CEM-GFP cells. | |
| | |
| 2.1 Introduction | 52 |
| 2.2 Materials and Methods | 55 |
| 2.2.1 Cell culture | 55 |
| 2.2.2 Virus preparation | 55 |
| 2.2.3 Virus stock preparation | 55 |
| 2.2.4 HIV-1 infection in CEMGFP cells | 56 |
| 2.2.5 Quantification of virus production | 56 |
| 2.2.6 Flow cytometry for GFP expression and Annexin V staining | 56 |

| | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| 2.2.7 | Apoptosis visualization by DNA laddering | 57 |
| 2.2.8 | Preparation of mitochondrial fractions | 57 |
| 2.2.9 | Western blotting | 58 |
| 2.3 | Results | 59 |
| 2.3.1 | Monitoring of HIV-1 infection | 59 |
| 2.3.2 | Visualization of apoptosis by DNA fragmentation | 62 |
| 2.3.3 | PARP cleavage and Caspase activation | 62 |
| 2.3.4 | Cytochrome c release | 63 |
| 2.3.5 | HIV-1 induces apoptosis in both infected and bystander cells. | 63 |
| 2.4 | Discussion | 65 |
| 2.5 | References | 66 |

Chapter 3. A novel CCR5 expressing CEM-GFP cell line infectable by both R5 and X4 viruses.

| | | |
|------------|--|-----------|
| 3.1 | Introduction | 71 |
| 3.2 | Materials and Methods | 75 |
| 3.2.1 | Construction of pCDNA-Zeo-CCR5 vector | 75 |
| 3.2.2 | Generation of CEM-GFP-CCR5 stable cell line by electroporation | 75 |
| 3.2.3 | RNA isolation, cDNA synthesis and RT-PCR | 75 |
| 3.2.4 | Expression of CCR5 in the new stable clone | 76 |
| 3.2.5 | CCR5 surface expression by Flow cytometry | 76 |
| 3.2.6 | Infection of the new stable cell line with HIV-1 subtype C isolate | 77 |
| 3.2.7 | HIV-1 p24 core antigen ELISA | 77 |
| 3.2.8 | Apoptosis induction in CEM-GFP-CCR5 cells | 77 |
| 3.3 | Results | 78 |
| 3.3.1 | Cloning of CCR5 gene | 78 |
| 3.3.2 | CGC5: The CCR5 expressing CEM-GFP stable cell line | 78 |
| 3.3.3 | Expression of CCR5 co-receptor | 79 |
| 3.3.4 | Infection of indicator cell lines, CEM-GFP and CGC5.1 with HIV-1 | 81 |
| 3.3.5 | Induction of apoptosis in HIV-1 infected CGC5.1 cell line | 83 |
| 3.4 | Discussion | 86 |
| 3.5 | References | 87 |

Chapter 4. Differential gene expression studies in HIV-1 induced T cell apoptosis.

| | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| 4.1 | Introduction | 92 |
| 4.2 | Materials and Methods | 95 |
| 4.2.1 | Separation of apoptotic and non-apoptotic cells using Magnetic bead technology (MACS) | 95 |
| 4.2.2 | RNA isolation, cDNA synthesis and RT-PCR | 96 |
| 4.2.3 | Western Blotting | 98 |
| 4.2.4 | Differential gene expression | 98 |

| | | |
|------------|--|-----|
| 4.2.5 | Re-amplification of cDNA probes | 99 |
| 4.2.6 | Cloning and sequencing of the PCR products | 100 |
| 4.2.7 | Identification of the gene by BLAST search | 100 |
| 4.3 | Results | 101 |
| 4.3.1 | Separation of apoptotic and non-apoptotic cells from HIV-1 infected population | 101 |
| 4.3.2 | Analysis of some genes known to be involved in apoptosis by RT-PCR | 102 |
| 4.3.3 | HIV-1 differentially modulates gene expression | 104 |
| 4.3.4 | Biochemical properties of the differentially expressed genes | 106 |
| 4.3.5 | Confirmation of expression of differentially expressed complex I genes | 110 |
| 4.4 | Discussion | 112 |
| 4.5 | References | 113 |

Chapter 5. Impairment of mitochondrial complex I activity in HIV-1 induced T cell apoptosis.

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| 5.1 | Introduction | 117 |
| 5.2 | Materials and Methods | 123 |
| 5.2.1 | HIV-1 Infection in PBMCs | 123 |
| 5.2.2 | RT-PCR analysis | 123 |
| 5.2.3 | Western Blotting | 123 |
| 5.2.4 | Complex I activity | 124 |
| 5.2.5 | Blue Native PAGE and In-gel activity staining of Complex I | 124 |
| 5.2.6 | Apoptosis visualization by DNA laddering | 125 |
| 5.2.7 | Cell Viability using MTT assay | 125 |
| 5.2.8 | ATP determination | 125 |
| 5.2.9 | Measurement of cellular super oxide generation by flow cytometry | 125 |
| 5.2.10 | Membrane potential studies by confocal microscopy | 126 |
| 5.2.11 | SiRNA mediated inhibition of NDUFA6 gene expression | 126 |
| 5.2.12 | Analysis of gene expression by real time PCR | 127 |
| 5.3 | Results | 128 |
| 5.3.1 | NDUFA6 transcript is down regulated in HIV-1 infection | 128 |
| 5.3.2 | NDUFA6 protein is also down regulated upon HIV-1 infection | 130 |
| 5.3.3 | Mitochondrial complex I activity is diminished in HIV-1 infection | 131 |
| 5.3.4 | BN-PAGE and In-gel Activity staining for complex I | 131 |
| 5.3.5 | Mitochondrial respiratory chain inhibitors induce apoptosis | 132 |
| 5.3.6 | Complex I specific activity by MTT assay | 133 |
| 5.3.7 | Production of ROS in infected cells | 134 |
| 5.3.8 | Loss of transmembrane potential ($\Delta\Psi_m$) upon HIV-1 infection | 136 |
| 5.3.9 | Role of ATP in HIV-1 induced apoptosis | 137 |
| 5.3.10 | Inhibition of NDUFA6 expression induces apoptosis | 137 |
| 5.4 | Discussion | 139 |
| 5.5 | References | 141 |

**Chapter 6. Gene expression profile in HIV-1 induced T cell apoptosis by
Microarray analysis.**

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| 6.1 | Introduction | 147 |
| 6.2 | Materials and Methods | 149 |
| 6.2.1 | Cell lines and virus infection | 149 |
| 6.2.2 | Viral stocks | 149 |
| 6.2.3 | β -galactosidase staining assay | 149 |
| 6.2.4 | Cell sorting | 150 |
| 6.2.5 | Microarray | 150 |
| 6.3 | Results | 151 |
| 6.3.1 | Preparation of highly infectious virus by transfection | 151 |
| 6.3.2 | Determination of MOI for the optimization of infection for the sort | 152 |
| 6.3.3 | Infection in CEMGFP cells and sorting of cells | 153 |
| 6.3.4 | Linear amplification of RNA for the Microarray analysis | 154 |
| 6.3.5 | Microarray using RNA from the sorted population | 157 |
| 6.3.6 | Analysis of microarray data | 157 |
| 6.4 | Discussion | 167 |
| 6.5 | References | 168 |

List of Publications and Abstracts