

General index

GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
1. CELLULAR SENESCENCE.....	3
1.1. <i>Hallmarks of senescent cells.</i>	5
1.2. <i>Senescence in physiology and pathology</i>	9
1.3. <i>Role of senescence in tumorigenesis</i>	11
1.3.1. Role of senescence in promoting metastasis.....	12
1.4. <i>Pro-senescence therapies</i>	15
1.4.1. Chemotherapy	15
1.4.2. Radiotherapy.....	15
1.4.3. Immunotherapy.....	16
1.4.4. CDK4/6 Inhibitors.....	17
1.5. <i>Senotherapies</i>	19
1.5.1. Senolytics	19
1.6. <i>A one-two punch therapy strategy for cancer treatment</i>	23
2. NANOTECHNOLOGY AND NANOMEDICINE	25
2.1. <i>Mesoporous silica nanoparticles</i>	27
2.2. <i>Synthesis of mesoporous silica nanoparticles</i>	27
2.3. <i>Functionalization of mesoporous silica nanoparticles</i>	29

Table of contents

2.4. <i>Stimuli-response gate materials</i>	30
2.5. <i>Targeting and cellular uptake of mesoporous silica nanoparticles</i>	32
2.5.1. Passive targeting: EPR effect in tumors	32
2.5.2. Active targeting.....	33
2.6. <i>Biodistribution, degradation, and excretion of MSNs</i>	34
2.7. <i>Nanodevices targeting senescent cells</i>	36
2.8. <i>Clinical translation of silica nanoparticles</i>	39
OBJECTIVES	43
CHAPTER I SENOLYSIS REDUCES SENESCENCE IN VEINS AND CANCER CELL MIGRATION 47	
1. ABSTRACT	53
2. INTRODUCTION.....	53
3. RESULTS.....	56
3.1. <i>Endothelial senescence increases the migration of breast cancer MDA-MB-231 cells</i>	56
3.2. <i>Selection and characterization of drugs to selectively eliminate HUVEC senescent cells</i>	60
3.3. <i>Navitoclax and NP(nav)-Gal treatment improves the functionality of endothelial tissue in co-cultures of senescent and proliferating HUVEC cells</i>	63
3.4. <i>Evaluation of endothelial senescence in triple-negative breast cancer model by palbociclib-induced senogenesis and NP(nav)-Gal senolysis</i>	67

Table of contents

3.5. <i>Palbociclib treatment increases lung metastasis after the tail vein injection of TNBC cells</i>	69
4. <i>DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION</i>	71
5. <i>EXPERIMENTAL SECTION</i>	75
5.1. <i>Cell culture and senescence induction</i>	75
5.2. <i>β-galactosidase activity assay</i>	75
5.3. <i>Flow cytometric determination of β-galactosidase activity</i>	76
5.4. <i>Western Blot</i>	76
5.5. <i>Ki67 Immunofluorescence</i>	76
5.6. <i>Conditioned media assay</i>	77
5.7. <i>Tumor cells migration assay</i>	77
5.8. <i>Synthesis of nanoparticles</i>	77
5.9. <i>Nanodevices characterization</i>	79
5.10. <i>Cargo release study of NP(nav)-Gal</i>	80
5.11. <i>Cargo release study of NP(ICG)-Gal</i>	80
5.12. <i>Confocal microscopy with NP(ICG)-Gal</i>	80
5.13. <i>Flow cytometry with NP(ICG)-Gal</i>	81
5.14. <i>Drug toxicity assay</i>	81
5.15. <i>Tube formation assay</i>	82

Table of contents

5.16. <i>4T1 orthotopic mice model</i>	82
5.17. <i>4T1-Luc metastatic model</i>	83
5.18. <i>Organs X-gal and hematoxylin-eosin staining</i>	83
5.19. <i>Fluorescent Immunohistochemistry</i>	83
5.20. <i>Statistical Analysis</i>	84
6. REFERENCES	84
7. SUPPORTING INFORMATION	90

7.1. *Materials characterization*..... 94

CHAPTER II | COMBINATION OF PALBOCICLIB WITH NAVITOCLAX BASED-THERAPIES ENHANCES *IN VIVO* ANTITUMORAL ACTIVITY IN TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER 103

1. ABSTRACT	109
2. INTRODUCTION.....	109
3. RESULTS.....	112
3.1. <i>Palbociclib induces senescence in MDA-MB-231</i>	112
3.2. <i>Navitoclax and nav-Gal are effective senolytics in TNBC</i>	114
3.3. <i>Combinational treatment of palbociclib and navitoclax or palbociclib and nav-Gal reduces tumor volume in MDA-MB-231 xenografts</i>	116
4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	120
5. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION	125

Table of contents

5.1.	<i>Cell culture and senescence induction</i>	125
5.2.	<i>Senescence-associated β-galactosidase staining</i>	126
5.3.	<i>Western Blot</i>	126
5.4.	<i>Ki67 immunostaining</i>	126
5.5.	<i>Cell cycle assay</i>	127
5.6.	<i>Synthesis of nav-Gal pro-drug</i>	127
5.7.	<i>Cytotoxicity assay</i>	128
5.8.	<i>Cell death assay</i>	128
5.9.	<i>Mouse experiments</i>	128
5.10.	<i>Histology</i>	129
5.11.	<i>Metastasis quantification</i>	129
5.12.	<i>Statistical Analysis</i>	130
6.	REFERENCES	130
7.	SUPPORTING INFORMATION.....	136
	CHAPTER III ENGINEERING NANOPARTICLE COMMUNICATION IN LIVING SYSTEMS BY STIGMERGY: AN APPLICATION TO ENHANCE ANTITUMOR THERAPY IN TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER	139
1.	ABSTRACT	145
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	145

Table of contents

3. RESULTS.....	148
3.1. <i>Design, synthesis, and characterization of the final nanodevices</i>	148
3.2. <i>Targeted internalization of MUC1-functionalised nanoparticles and induction of senescence in vitro</i>	153
3.3. <i>Cooperative behavior by stigmergy: targeted induction of senescence and senolysis in vitro</i>	156
3.4. <i>Stigmergic communication by targeted induction of senescence and senolysis using nanoparticles in vivo in TNBC MDA-MB-231 xenografts</i>	158
4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	166
5. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION	168
5.1. <i>Cell culture and senescence induction</i>	168
5.2. <i>β-galactosidase activity assay</i>	168
5.3. <i>Western Blot</i>	168
5.4. <i>Synthesis of MSNs</i>	169
5.5. <i>Synthesis of NP(palbo)PEG-MUC1, NP(saf)PEG-MUC1 and NP(ICG)PEG-MUC1</i> ..	
.....	169
5.6. <i>Synthesis of NP(nav)-Gal</i>	170
5.7. <i>Nanoparticles characterization</i>	171
5.8. <i>Cargo release studies of NP(palbo)PEG, NP(saf)PEG, and NP(ICG)PEG</i>	172
5.9. <i>Cargo release study of NP(nav)-Gal and NP(NB)-Gal</i>	172

Table of contents

5.10.	<i>Confocal microscopy targeted cellular uptake studies.....</i>	173
5.11.	<i>Flow cytometry targeted cellular uptake studies.....</i>	173
5.12.	<i>Cytotoxicity assay.....</i>	173
5.13.	<i>TMRE Staining</i>	174
5.14.	<i>Animal experiments</i>	174
5.15.	<i>IVIS Imaging</i>	175
5.16.	<i>Histology</i>	176
5.17.	<i>Metastasis quantification</i>	176
5.18.	<i>Silica biodistribution.....</i>	177
5.19.	<i>Statistical Analysis.....</i>	177
6.	REFERENCES	178
7.	SUPPORTING INFORMATION	183
CHAPTER IV IDENTIFICATION OF NOVEL SENOLYTIC HEXAPEPTIDE FOR MALIGNANT MELANOMA		197
	GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT.....	201
	KEYWORDS	201
	MY CONTRIBUTION	201
1.	ABSTRACT	203
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	203

Table of contents

3.	RESULTS.....	206
3.1.	<i>Identification of melanoma senolytic hexapeptides from the screening of a positional hexapeptide combinatorial library</i>	206
3.2.	<i>H14 induces cell death by apoptosis in melanoma senescent cells.....</i>	210
3.3.	<i>H14 induces cell death in in vivo models of senescent melanoma tumors....</i>	212
4.	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	216
5.	EXPERIMENTAL SECTION	219
5.1.	<i>Cell lines</i>	219
5.2.	<i>Peptide libraries</i>	219
5.3.	<i>HPLC and MS characterization.....</i>	219
5.4.	<i>Positional tracking of the entire library.....</i>	220
5.5.	<i>Staining of senescence-associated β-galactosidase</i>	220
5.6.	<i>Viability test with deconvolved hexapeptides</i>	220
5.7.	<i>Viability validation test</i>	221
5.8.	<i>Cell death assay.....</i>	221
5.9.	<i>Caspase 3 Activity.....</i>	222
5.10.	<i>TMRE Staining</i>	222
5.11.	<i>Mice experiments.....</i>	222
5.12.	<i>Histology</i>	223

Table of contents

5.13. <i>Statistical Analysis</i>	224
6. REFERENCES	224
7. SUPPORTING INFORMATION.....	231
7.1. <i>Hexapeptide screening</i>	231
7.2. <i>References</i>	232
FUTURE PERSPECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS.....	243
REFERENCES	251