

# INDEX

Resumen .....	x
Resum .....	xiii
Summary .....	xv
Acronyms .....	xvii
List of figures.....	xx
List of tables .....	xx
Index.....	xxii
1. Introduction .....	23
1.1. Spinal cord injury .....	24
1.2. Pathophysiology of spinal cord injury .....	25
1.2.1. Acute phase.....	26
1.2.2. Subacute phase.....	28
1.2.3. Chronic phase .....	30
1.3. Barriers to tissue regeneration .....	31
1.4. Cell therapy for spinal cord injury.....	33
1.4.1. Non-neural stem cells .....	34
1.4.2. Neural stem cells.....	35
1.4.2.1. NSCs in clinical trials.....	40
1.5. New strategies for neural stem cell therapy improvement .....	44
1.5.1. Pharmacological therapies.....	44
1.5.2. Cell-coupling strategies.....	45
1.5.3. Cell and gene therapy .....	46
1.5.4. Biomaterials .....	47
2. Hypothesis and objectives .....	49
3. Results.....	53
3.1. Chapter 1: human-induced neural and mesenchymal stem cell therapy combined with a curcumin nanoconjugate as a spinal cord injury treatment .....	54
3.2. Chapter 2: a hyaluronic acid demilune scaffold and polypyrrole-coated fibers carrying embedded human neural precursor cells and curcumin for surface capping of spinal cord injuries .....	101
3.3. Chapter 3: transplantation of human fetal spinal cord-derived npcs primed with a polyglutamate-conjugated rho/rock inhibitor as a therapy for acute spinal cord injury .....	135
4. Discussion .....	168
5. Conclusions .....	175
6. References .....	178

