

INDEX

I. INTRODUCTION	1
1. CANCER.....	3
1.1. THE CANCER CONCEPT	3
1.2. THE MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF CANCER	3
2. LUNG CANCER	6
2.1. EPIDEMIOLOGY.....	6
2.2. RISK FACTORS	6
2.3. PATHOLOGY.....	8
2.4. DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS	8
2.5. TREATMENT.....	11
2.6. LUNG CANCER MOLECULAR CLASSIFICATION.....	13
3. THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND CANCER	18
3.1. CANCER IMMUNOREGULATION.....	20
3.1.1. IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE FACTORS.....	20
3.1.2. IMMUNE CHECKPOINTS.....	22
3.2. IMMUNOREGULATORY CELLS	24
3.2.1. REGULATORY T CELLS.....	24
3.2.2. MYELOID-DERIVED SUPPRESSOR CELLS.....	29
3.2.3. TUMOUR-ASSOCIATED MACROPHAGES.....	31
4. BIOMARKERS	34
4.1. IMMUNE SYSTEM-RELATED BIOMARKERS IN LUNG CANCER	36
II. OBJECTIVES	37
III. MATERIALS & METHODS	41
1. PATIENTS AND SAMPLES	43
1.1. PATIENTS INCLUDED IN THE STUDY	43
1.1.1. EARLY STAGE NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CARCINOMA PATIENTS....	43

1.1.2. ADVANCED STAGE NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CARCINOMA PATIENTS	43
1.1.3. CONTROL GROUP.....	43
1.2. SAMPLES.....	43
2. HISTOPATHOLOGICAL METHODS	44
2.1. HAEMATOXYLIN AND EOSIN STAINING.....	44
2.2. LASER-CAPTURE MICRODISSECTION.....	45
2.3. IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY.....	46
2.3.1. IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY PROTOCOL	46
2.3.2. IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY CONTROLS.....	47
2.3.3. MICROSCOPE EVALUATION AND SCORING	47
3. MOLECULAR BIOLOGY METHODS	48
3.1. NUCLEIC ACID ISOLATION.....	48
3.1.1. RNA AND DNA ISOLATION FROM FRESH-FROZEN TISSUE SAMPLES	48
3.1.2. RNA ISOLATION FROM MICRODISSECTED FORMALIN-FIXED PARAFFIN-EMBEDDED SAMPLES	49
3.1.3. RNA ISOLATION FROM PERIPHERAL BLOOD.....	49
3.2. DETECTION OF EGFR MUTATIONS	49
3.3. DETECTION OF KRAS MUTATIONS.....	50
3.4. REVERSE TRANSCRIPTION	52
3.5. PREAMPLIFICATION.....	53
3.6. QUANTITATIVE REAL TIME PCR	54
3.7. DATA ANALYSIS	57
IV.RESULTS & DISCUSSION.....	59
STUDY I: BIOMARKERS IN RESECTED NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CARCINOMAS.....	61
A) IMMUNOREGULATION GENE EXPRESSION BIOMARKERS	61
1. ANALYSIS IN FRESH-FROZEN SAMPLES	61
1.1. PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS.....	61

1.1.1.	<i>EGFR AND KRAS MUTATIONAL ANALYSIS</i>	62
1.2.	GENE EXPRESSION ANALYSIS.....	63
1.2.1.	RNA QUANTIFICATION AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT	63
1.2.2.	RELATIVE IMMUNOREGULATORY GENE EXPRESSION	64
1.2.3.	UNSUPERVISED CLUSTERING ANALYSIS.....	66
1.3.	CORRELATION OF BIOMARKERS WITH CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL VARIABLES	67
1.4.	BIOMARKER SURVIVAL ANALYSIS.....	70
1.4.1.	CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL VARIABLES	70
1.4.2.	HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERS.....	72
1.4.3.	INDIVIDUAL BIOMARKERS.....	74
1.4.4.	EXPRESSION PROGNOSTIC SCORE	83
1.4.5.	IMMUNE CHECKPOINT SCORE	85
1.4.6.	MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS.....	87
2.	ANALYSIS IN FORMALIN-FIXED PARAFFIN EMBEDDED SAMPLES	90
2.1.	PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS.....	90
2.2.	GENE EXPRESSION ANALYSIS.....	91
2.2.1.	LASER CAPTURE MICRODISSECTION AND RNA ISOLATION	91
2.2.2.	ASSESSMENT OF PRE-AMPLIFICATION UNIFORMITY.....	91
2.2.3.	RELATIVE MESSENGER RNA EXPRESSION OF IMMUNOREGULATORY GENES IN TUMOUR AND ADJACENT STROMA COMPARTMENTS	92
2.2.4.	UNSUPERVISED CLUSTERING ANALYSIS.....	96
2.3.	CORRELATION OF BIOMARKERS WITH CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL VARIABLES	98
2.4.	BIOMARKER SURVIVAL ANALYSIS.....	101
2.4.1.	CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL VARIABLES	101
2.4.2.	HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERS.....	102
2.4.3.	INDIVIDUAL BIOMARKERS.....	103
2.4.4.	COMBINED BIOMARKERS.....	113
2.4.5.	GENE EXPRESSION SCORE.....	118
2.4.6.	MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS.....	122
B)	TUMOUR MICROENVIRONMENT INFILTRATING IMMUNE CELLS.....	124
1.	IHC ANALYSIS OF CD4, CD8, AND FOXP3.....	124

2.	DETECTION OF INFILTRATING IMMUNE CELL MARKERS	124
3.	CORRELATION BETWEEN INFILTRATING IMMUNE CELLS AND CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL VARIABLES	129
4.	IMMUNE CELL INFILTRATION SURVIVAL ANALYSIS.....	130
4.1.	THE PROGNOSTIC ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL IMMUNE CELLS	130
4.2.	THE PROGNOSTIC ROLE OF THE COMBINATION OF IMMUNE CELLS.....	134
4.3.	MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS.....	136
C)	CORRELATION BETWEEN IMMUNE CELL INFILTRATION AND IMMUNOREGULATORY GENE EXPRESSION	139
1.	CORRELATION BETWEEN THE CD4 ⁺ , CD8 ⁺ , AND FOXP3 ⁺ CELL COUNT AND THE GENE EXPRESSION LEVELS OF THESE MARKERS	139
1.1.	GENE EXPRESSION DATA FROM FRESH-FROZEN SAMPLES.....	139
1.2.	GENE EXPRESSION DATA FROM FORMALIN-FIXED PARAFFIN-EMBEDDED SAMPLES.....	140
2.	THE IMMUNE CONTEXTURE CHARACTERISATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRESENCE OF IMMUNE CELLS.....	141
2.1.	CORRELATION BETWEEN INFILTRATING IMMUNE CELLS AND EXPRESSION PATTERNS IN FRESH-FROZEN SAMPLES	141
2.2.	CORRELATION BETWEEN INFILTRATING IMMUNE CELLS AND EXPRESSION PATTERNS IN FORMALIN-FIXED PARAFFIN-EMBEDDED SAMPLES.....	145
3.	CORRELATION BETWEEN INFILTRATING IMMUNE CELLS AND IMMUNOREGULATION GENE EXPRESSION SIGNATURES	150
D)	INTEGRATION OF RESULTS FROM STUDY I	152
	STUDY II. BIOMARKERS IN ADVANCED NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CARCINOMA.....	157
A)	ANALYSIS OF GENE EXPRESSION BIOMARKERS IN BLOOD SAMPLES.....	157
1.	PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS AND SAMPLES ANALYSED.....	157
2.	RELATIVE GENE EXPRESSION.....	159
B)	ANALYSIS OF THE DIAGNOSTIC, PROGNOSTIC, AND PREDICTIVE VALUE OF IMMUNOREGULATORY BIOMARKERS	161

1.	THE DIAGNOSTIC VALUE OF THE GENES ANALYSED	161
2.	CORRELATION WITH CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL VARIABLES.....	163
3.	SURVIVAL ANALYSIS	165
C)	INTEGRATION OF RESULTS FROM STUDY II	168
	V. CONCLUSIONS	169
	VI. REFERENCES	173
	VII. APPENDICES	195
1.	SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES.....	197
2.	APPROVAL FROM THE INSTITUTIONAL ETHICAL AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD.....	199
3.	FUNDING	202
4.	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS COMMUNICATIONS	202
5.	PUBLICATIONS	206