

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	xi
RÉSUMÉ .....	xii
INTRODUCTION .....	14
1 CANCER .....	14
1.1 Epidemiology .....	14
1.2 What is cancer? A biological definition .....	15
1.3 Etiology: risk factors .....	15
1.4 Cancer therapy .....	16
1.5 Overview on brain cancers .....	18
2 THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF CANCER .....	21
2.1 Cancer genome .....	21
2.2 Cancer hallmarks .....	23
2.3 Tumour microenvironment .....	27
2.4 Metastases .....	29
3 AN INTRODUCTION TO PROTEIN SYNTHESIS AND CANCER .....	30
3.1 General considerations .....	30
3.2 Transcription .....	31
3.3 Translation .....	31
3.4 Protein synthesis and cancer .....	36
3.5 Protein synthesis inhibitors .....	40
4 ANTICANCER DRUGS AND NATURAL PRODUCTS .....	46
4.1 A brief history of anticancer drugs .....	46
4.2 Anticancer drugs used in chemotherapy .....	47
4.3 Resistance to chemotherapy .....	49
4.4 The role of natural products in anticancer drugs research .....	52
5 B-CARBOLINES .....	55
5.1 Origin and chemical structure .....	55
5.2 Pharmacological activities .....	56
AIMS .....	63
<b>PART I: Deciphering the antiproliferative effects of harmine derivatives: in vitro evaluation of cellular and biochemical effects with an emphasis on protein synthesis .....</b>	<b>64</b>
1 INTRODUCTION AND AIMS .....	64
2 MATERIAL AND METHODS .....	69
2.1 Compounds .....	69
2.2 Cell lines, media and cell culture reagents .....	69
2.3 Cell growth inhibition evaluation .....	70
2.4 Evaluation of cytostatic effects through videomicroscopy .....	70
2.5 Cell cycle evaluation .....	71
2.6 National Cancer Institute (NCI) screening .....	71
2.7 Transcriptomic analysis of the National Cancer Institute data .....	72
2.8 Analysis of CM16 effects on transcription .....	72
2.9 Protein synthesis evaluation .....	73

2.10 Fluorescence assays .....	74
2.11 Investigation of the translation initiation: ribosome and polysome organization study	76
2.12 Western blot analyses.....	77
2.13 PERK activity.....	78
3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	79
3.1 Antiproliferative effects of harmine and derivatives.....	79
3.2 Investigation of CM16 as a protein synthesis inhibitor of cancer cells .....	87
3.3 Toxicity, antitumor evaluation and formulation of CM16 .....	106
4 CONCLUSIONS .....	108
<b>PART II: Proteomic evaluation of the effects of the harmine derivative CM16 on Hs683 glioma cells.. .....</b>	<b>109</b>
5 INTRODUCTION AND AIMS .....	109
6 MATERIAL AND METHODS .....	111
6.1 Cell lines .....	111
6.2 Selection of experimental conditions and cell lysis methods.....	111
6.3 Protein extraction from cells.....	112
6.4 Protein precipitation.....	112
6.5 Gel-free approach - Shotgun proteomics .....	113
6.6 Gel-based proteomics - Two-dimensional electrophoresis (2-DE).....	119
6.7 2-DE-MS/MS data validation.....	121
6.8 Interaction network.....	122
7 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	123
7.1 Gel-free proteomics (shotgun) .....	123
7.2 Unsupervised multivariate analyses.....	126
7.3 Supervised multivariate analyses .....	130
7.4 Evaluation of critical effects .....	132
7.5 Gel-based proteomics - 2-DE evaluation of change in protein expression.....	136
7.6 Networking .....	140
7.7 Discussion .....	143
8 CONCLUSIONS .....	147
GENERAL DISCUSSION .....	149
GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES .....	157
References .....	160
Appendices .....	187