

TABLE OF CONTENTS



THESIS JURY -----	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS -----	4
ACKNOWLEDGMENT -----	7
RESUME -----	11
ABSTRACT -----	14
ABBREVIATIONS -----	17
INTRODUCTION -----	20
1. CHEMERIN -----	21
1.1. Discovery and expression-----	21
1.2. Processing/activation-----	23
1.3. Chemerin receptors -----	25
1.4. Biological roles-----	33
2. CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM -----	41
2.1. Systemic and pulmonary circulation -----	41
2.2. Structure of artery-----	43
2.3. Roles of artery-----	46
3. PULMONARY HYPERTENSION -----	56
3.1. Clinical classification-----	56
3.2. Definition -----	57
3.3. Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) -----	57
3.4. Pulmonary hypertension due to lung diseases and/or hypoxia -----	65
4. POTENTIAL LINK BETWEEN CHEMERIN AND PULMONARY CIRCULATION AND PULMONARY HYPERTENSION -----	66
4.1. Chemerin and vasoreactivity -----	66
4.2. Chemerin and vascular remodeling-----	66
4.3. Chemerin and arterial pressure-----	67
4.4. Chemerin and inflammation-----	67
AIM OF STUDY -----	68
MATERIAL & METHODS -----	70
PART A: DECIPHERING THE ROLE PLAYED BY CHEMERIN SIGNALING IN THE HOMEOSTASIS OF PULMONARY CIRCULATION -----	71
1.1. Animals and sample preparation-----	71
1.2. Chemerin-----	72
1.3. <i>Ex vivo</i> evaluation of vascular reactivity -----	72
1.4. Quantification of NO metabolite (nitrite) production-----	77
1.5. Primary culture and treatment of rat pulmonary artery and thoracic aorta smooth muscle cells--	79
1.6. Immunohistochemistry-----	87
1.7. Real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RTq-PCR) experiments -----	90
1.8. Statistical analysis -----	99
PART B: IMPACT OF CMKLR1 KNOCKING-OUT IN PULMONARY CIRCULATION PHYSIO(PATHO)LOGY -----	101
1.1. Animals -----	101
1.2. Experimental model of pulmonary hypertension induced by chronic hypoxia exposure -----	102

1.3.	Hemodynamic measurements -----	103
1.4.	Collection of tissues, sample preparation and post-mortem analysis -----	104
1.5.	Statistical analysis -----	104
RESULTS -----		105
PART A: DECIPHERING THE ROLE PLAYED BY CHEMERIN SIGNALING IN THE HOMEOSTASIS OF PULMONARY CIRCULATION (Hanthazi et al., Life Sciences 2019; Hanthazi et al., Frontiers 2020) -----		106
1.1.	Chemerin and its receptors in rat pulmonary artery and thoracic aorta -----	106
1.2.	Vascular reactivity of rat pulmonary artery and thoracic aorta -----	110
1.3.	Effects of chemerin on NO production in rat pulmonary artery and thoracic aorta -----	116
1.4.	Hyperplasia of rat pulmonary artery and thoracic aorta smooth muscle cells -----	118
1.5.	Endothelin-1 increased the expression of chemerin receptors in pulmonary artery smooth muscle cells -----	122
1.6.	Chemerin induced alterations in expression of inflammatory markers in pulmonary artery and thoracic aorta smooth muscle cells -----	124
1.7.	Summary -----	126
PART B: IMPACT OF CMKLR1 KNOCKING-OUT IN PULMONARY CIRCULATION PHYSIO(PATHO)LOGY -----		127
1.1.	CMKLR1 ^{-/-} mice presented increased right ventricular systolic pressure -----	127
1.2.	Post-mortem morphometric analysis -----	128
DISCUSSION -----		130
PART A: DECIPHERING THE ROLE PLAYED BY CHEMERIN SIGNALING IN THE HOMEOSTASIS OF PULMONARY CIRCULATION -----		131
1.1.	Chemerin and its receptors in rat vasculature -----	131
1.2.	Chemerin-induced pulmonary vasomotion -----	133
1.3.	Chemerin-induced pulmonary artery remodeling -----	136
1.4.	Interrelation between chemerin and endothelin-1 signaling pathways -----	138
1.5.	Chemerin and inflammation -----	138
PART B: IMPACT OF CMKLR1 KNOCKING-OUT IN PULMONARY CIRCULATION PHYSIO(PATHO)LOGY -----		140
CONCLUSION & PERSPECTIVES -----		142
LIMITATIONS -----		145
1.1.	<i>In vitro</i> versus <i>in vivo</i> studies -----	146
1.2.	Pulmonary artery and thoracic aorta -----	146
1.3.	Animal gender -----	147
SCIENTIFIC PAPERS -----		148
REFERENCES -----		173