

## Table of contents

Abbreviation.....	1
Chapter 1. Introduction .....	5
A. The mitochondrion .....	5
A.1 Structure of the mitochondrion .....	5
A.2 Mitochondrial functions.....	7
B. VDAC.....	10
B.1 VDAC early studies .....	10
B.2 VDAC isoforms .....	11
B.3 VDAC function .....	12
B.4 Electrophysiological properties and structure of VDAC.....	15
B.5 VDAC regulation .....	28
C. The mitochondrial carrier family (MCF).....	30
C.1 Description of the MCF and ADP/ATP carrier .....	30
C.2 Structure of MCF members .....	32
C.3 Binding site of MCF proteins .....	35
C.4 Transport mechanism of the MCF.....	37
C.5 The human thiamine pyrophosphate transporter .....	39
D. Computational methods .....	41
D.1 Molecular mechanics .....	41
D.2 Molecular Dynamics simulations .....	52
D.3 Brownian dynamics and Grand Canonical Monte Carlo Brownian dynamics .....	61
E. Bibliography.....	64
Chapter 2. Aim of the thesis .....	87
Chapter 3. Lipid composition and salt concentration as regulatory factors of the anion selectivity of VDAC studied by coarse-grained molecular dynamics simulations .....	91
A. Abstract.....	93
B. Introduction .....	93
C. Material and Methods .....	97
C.1. Brownian dynamics simulations.....	97
C.2. All-atom molecular dynamics simulations. ....	98

C.3. Coarse-grained molecular dynamics simulations.....	98
C.4. Analysis of the trajectories.....	99
D. Results.....	100
D.1. Concentration dependence of VDAC selectivity.....	100
D.2. Lipid head group affects VDAC selectivity.....	107
E. Discussion.....	111
G. Supporting information.....	114
H. Bibliography.....	122
Chapter 4. Molecular mechanism of thiamine pyrophosphate import into mitochondria: a molecular simulation study. ....	131
A. Abstract.....	133
B. Introduction.....	134
C. Results.....	137
C.1 Parametrization of TPP.....	137
C.2 TPP import into the mitochondrion.....	140
D. Discussion.....	152
D.1 Permeation of TPP through MOM.....	152
D.2 Permeation of TPP through the MIM.....	153
D.3 Permeation of TPP through the MIM: the importance of two salt bridge networks .....	155
D.4 Mg co-transport.....	157
E. Material and methods.....	159
E.1 Development of molecular parameters in CHARMM force field.....	159
E.2 Validation of optimized parameters.....	161
E.3 Molecular modelling of TPPT.....	162
E.4 Molecular dynamics simulations.....	164
E.5 Analysis of the trajectories.....	167
F Supplementary informations.....	168
G. Bibliography.....	226
Chapter 5. General discussion and perspectives.....	237
Bibliography chapter 5.....	241