
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	i-vii
Declaration by Candidate	viii
Certificate of The Supervisor	ix
Acknowledgement	x-xi
Table of Contents	xii-xv
List of Figures	xvi-xvii
List of Tables	xviii
List of Abbreviations	xix-xxii
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	1-23
1.1. Background of Leishmaniasis	
1.2. Epidemiology of Visceral Leishmaniasis	
1.3. Transmission biology and life cycle of <i>Leishmania donovani</i>	
1.4. Role of macrophage inflammatory status in visceral leishmaniasis	
1.5. Role of TLR4 receptor in visceral leishmaniasis	
1.6. Involvement of <i>L. donovani</i> Lipophosphoglycan (LPG) in visceral leishmaniasis	
1.7. Therapeutic potential of imidazo[1,2- α] pyridine derivatives as antileishmanial agents	
1.8. Bibliography	
CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE	24-43
2.1. Interaction of Leishmania parasites with macrophages	
2.2 Role of Th1 and Th2 cytokines in leishmaniasis	
2.3. Involvement of TLR4 receptor in parasite internalization	
2.4. Role of parasite Lipophosphoglycan (LPG) in leishmaniasis	
2.5. Alteration of MAPK signaling pathway by leishmaniasis	
2.6. Imidazo[1,2- α] pyridine derivatives as potential anti-leishmanial agents	
2.7. Bibliography	
CHAPTER III: MATERIALS AND METHODS	44-64
3.1. Reagents	
3.2. Parasite culture and maintenance	

-
- 3.3. Isolation of peripheral blood mononuclear cells and staining
 - 3.4. Flow cytometric analysis
 - 3.5. Sub-cellular protein fractionation
 - 3.6. Immunoblotting
 - 3.7. RNA extraction and Semi-quantitative RT-PCR
 - 3.8. Cell viability assay
 - 3.9. TLR4 silencing and forced expression in THP-1 macrophages
 - 3.10. Measurement of ROS production
 - 3.11. Fluorescence microscopic imaging
 - 3.12. Macrophage migration assay
 - 3.13. F-actin accumulation study by ActinGreen488 staining
 - 3.14. Co-immunoprecipitation study
 - 3.15. Affinity purification for TLR4 and LPG
 - 3.16. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC)
 - 3.17. Site directed mutagenesis
 - 3.18. Arginase activity assay
 - 3.19. Luciferase reporter assay
 - 3.20. Animal husbandry and treatments
 - 3.21. Immunohistofluorescence staining
 - 3.22. Parasite burden analysis
 - 3.23. Cytotoxicity assay
 - 3.24. Intracellular parasite burden analysis
 - 3.25. Details of IMPA derivatives
 - 3.26. Acridine orange/Ethidium bromide staining
 - 3.27. Measurement of reactive oxygen species (ROS)
 - 3.28. Measurement of mitochondrial membrane potential ($\Delta\Psi_m$)
 - 3.29. Flow cytometric analysis of cell apoptosis by Annexin V-FITC and PI staining
 - 3.30. Cell cycle analysis by flow cytometry
 - 3.31. Statistical analysis
 - 3.32. Bibliography

CHAPTER IV: Investigating the mechanism of *L. donovani* promastigotes internalization in macrophages **65-90**

4.1. Result

4.1.1. *L. donovani* infection is associated with macrophage inflammation status

4.1.2. *L. donovani* infection downregulates the LPS-induced inflammation in macrophages

4.1.3. *L. donovani* LPG and macrophage TLR4 favor parasite entry

4.1.4. Involvement of *L. donovani* LPG and macrophage TLR4 on infection-induced macrophage dysfunction:

4.1.5. Direct interaction of LPG-TLR4 enhances intracellular amastigote burden

4.1.6. *L. donovani* Lipophosphoglycan (LPG) recognition is mediated by macrophage TLR4 leucine rich repeats (LRR):

4.2. Discussion

4.3. Bibliography

CHAPTER V: Modulation of TLR4 expression and activity govern *L. donovani* infection in liver by regulating AHSG expression **91-109**

5.1. Result

5.1.1. Effect of TLR4 silencing and the inhibition of TLR4 signaling on the *L. donovani* infection in the liver of in-vivo mice model of VL

5.1.2. Modulation of ERK and NF-κB activations, inflammatory cytokines expression, and AHSG levels in the liver of TLR4 knockdown and suppressed mice model of VL

5.1.3. Effect of TLR4 silencing and its inhibition on the ARG activity and NO production in the *L. donovani* infected THP-1 macrophages

5.1.4. Involvement of macrophage AHSG on parasite burden and oxidative stress status of the *L. donovani* infected THP-1 macrophages

5.2. Discussion

5.3. Bibliography

CHAPTER VI: Investigating therapeutic efficacy of Imidazo[1,2- α] pyridine derivatives on the growth inhibition and apoptotic cell death in *L. donovani* promastigotes **110-125**

6.1. Result

6.1.1. Evaluation of anti-leishmanial activity of the novel imidazo [1,2- α] pyridine-2-amino-4H pyrane derivatives

6.1.2. IMPA-2 and IMPA-12 induces apoptosis like cell death and oxidative stress in *L. donovani* promastigotes

6.1.3. Induction of apoptotic cell death in *L. donovani* by IMPA-2 and IMPA-12

6.1.4. IMPA-2 and IMPA-12 promotes loss of mitochondrial membrane potential ($\Delta\Psi_m$) in *L. donovani* promastigotes

6.1.5. IMPA-2 and IMPA-12 promotes cell cycle arrest in *L. donovani* promastigotes

6.2. Discussion

6.3. Bibliography

CHAPTER VII: Conclusion and future prospects

126-130

7.1. Conclusion

7.2. Future Prospects

List of Publication and conferences attended

131-133

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER I:

Fig 1.1. World map showing VL endemicity globally	3
Fig 1.2: Infection and life cycle of <i>Leishmania donovani</i>	4
Fig 1.3. Macrophage activation in response to leishmaniasis	5
Fig 1.4. Alteration of host macrophage defense signaling pathways by <i>L. donovani</i>	9
Fig 1.5. LPG mediated downregulation of macrophage signaling pathways in <i>Leishmania</i> infection.	11

CHAPTER II:

Fig 2.1. Macrophage regulates the infection Leishmania outcome	25
--	-----------

CHAPTER IV:

Fig 4.1. Inflammatory status of macrophages regulates <i>L. donovani</i> burden.	65-66
Fig 4.2. <i>L. donovani</i> infection downregulates LPS-induced inflammation in macrophages.	68-69
Fig 4.3. Macrophage TLR4 and promastigote LPG governs intracellular <i>L.</i> <i>donovani</i> burden.	71-73
Fig 4.4. <i>L. donovani</i> LPG and macrophage TLR4 favoring parasites burden and macrophage dysfunction	75-76
Fig 4.5. <i>L. donovani</i> LPG directly interacts with macrophage TLR4	78-80
Fig 4.6. LRRs of TLR4 involved in the recognition of LPG and parasite entry in macrophages.	81-84

CHAPTER V:

- Fig 5.1. TLR4 abundance and inflammatory status governs the parasite load in the liver **92-93**
- Fig 5.2. LPS stimulation and TLR4 silencing modulates ERK/NF-κB activation, inflammatory cytokines expression, and AHSG levels in the liver. **95-97**
- Fig 5.3. TLR4 mediated inflammatory state in *L. donovani* infected THP-1 macrophages. **99-100**
- Fig 5.4. AHSG silencing causes reduction of parasite load and alteration of F-Actin accumulation in *L. donovani* infected THP-1 macrophages. **101-102**

CHAPTER VI:

- Fig 6.1. Imidazo[1,2- α] pyridine-2-amino-4H-pyrane (IMPA) derivatives induces cytotoxicity in *L. donovani* promastigote and inhibits parasite burden in THP1 macrophages. **111**
- Fig 6.2. IMPA-2 and IMPA-12 incubation promote apoptosis like cell death and oxidative stress in *L. donovani* promastigotes. **113**
- Fig 6.3. IMPA-2 and IMPA-12 treatment induces apoptosis in *L. donovani* promastigotes. **114**
- Fig 6.4. Impairment of mitochondrial membrane potential in *L. donovani* in response to IMPA-2 and IMPA-12. **115**
- Fig 6.5. IMPA-2 and IMPA-12 persuades cell cycle arrest in *L. donovani* promastigotes. **116**

CHAPTER VII:

- Fig 7.1. Schematic model of *L. donovani* LPG-TLR4 interaction-mediated parasite internalization. **127**
- Fig 7.2. Illustration of anti-leishmanial efficacy of IMPA derivatives on *L. donovani* promastigotes. **129**