TABLE OF CONTENTS		
Abstract	i- iii	
Publication and Presentations	iv	
Declaration	\mathbf{v}	
Certificate of The Supervisor	vi	
Certificate of The External Examiner and ODEC	vii	
Acknowledgements	viii-ix	
List of Tables	xiv	
List of Figures	xv-xix	
List of Abbreviations	xx-xxi	
Chapter I: Introduction	1 - 6	
Chapter II: Review of Literature	7 - 46	
2.1. The Role of Immunometabolic Pathways in Immune Cell Function.	8 - 19	
2.2. The Interplay between Signaling Pathways and Metabolic Pathways in Immune Cells.	20	
2.2.1. The mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) pathway.	21 - 23	
2.2.1. The manimanan target of fapaniyem (mTOK) pathway.		
2.3. Metabolism in Tumor Microenvironment (TME).	24	
2.3.1. Cancer cell Metabolism Shaping the TME.	25 - 31	
2.3.2. Metabolism of Immune Cells.	32 - 34	
2.3.2.1. Succinate and Regulation of Immune Cell Functions.	34 - 35	
2.3.2.2. Folate Metabolism and Immune Cell Functions.	35	
2.4. Natural Killer (NK) cells and cancer.	37	
2.4.1. NK cell Overview and Effector Functions.	37	
2.4.2. Regulation of Immunometabolic Pathways in NK cells.	39 - 44	
2.4.3. Immunometabolic Regulation of NK cells in TME.	45	
2.4.4. Folate status and NK cells.	46	
2.4.5. Succinate and NK cells.	46	

Chapter III: Materials and Methods	47 - 56
3.1. Cell Lines and Culture Conditions.	48
3.1.1. Cell Viability.	48
3.1.2. Chemical Compounds.	48
3.2. The Experimental Conditions.	49
3.2.1. Study the effect of Folate and succinate treatments on NK-92 cell line in mono-culture conditions.	49
3.2.2. Study the effect of folate and succinate treatments on NK92 cells in co-culture system with MDAMB231 breast cancer cells.	49
3.3. Flow cytometry analysis.	50
3.3.1. Gating strategy.	50
3.4. Cytokines and Chemokines analysis.	51
3.5. Gene expression study (RNA preparation and Quantitative qRT-PCR).	52
3.6. Protein Analysis.	54
3.6.1. Western blotting analysis.	55
3.6.2. Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA).	55
3.7. Statistical Analysis.	56
Chapter IV: Results	57 - 116
4.1. Effect of folate treatments (concentration and form) on NK92 cell activation status and mTOR pathway expression in mono-culture conditions.	58
4.1.1. Effect of folate concentration and form on NK92 cell viability.	58
4.1.2. Effect of folate concentration and form on NK92 activation status.	62
4.1.3. Effect of folate concentration and form on the expression of key genes in	66
Folate metabolism of NK92 cells.	00
4.1.4. Effect of folate treatments on the expression of key genes in mTOR signalling pathway of NK92 cells.	67

4.2. Effect of succinate treatments on NK92 cell activation status and mTOR	73
pathway expression in mono-culture conditions.	
4.2.1. Effect of succinate treatments on NK92 cell viability.	73
4.2.2. Effect of succinate treatments on NK92 cell activation status.	74
4.2.3. Effect of succinate treatments on the expression of key genes in Folate metabolism of NK92 cells.	78
4.2.4. Effect of succinate treatments on the expression of key genes in mTOR signalling pathway of NK92 cells.	79
4.3. Effect of folate treatments on NK92 cell activation status and cytokines /	86
chemokines profile in co-culture conditions with MDAMB231 cancer cell line.	
4.3.1. Effect of folate status on the co-cultured NK92 cell viability.	86
4.3.2. Effect of folate treatments on the co-cultured NK92 cell activation status.	87
4.3.3. Effect of folate treatments on HIF1 α in the co-cultured NK92 cells.	87
4.3.4. Effect of folate treatments on the profile of secreted cytokines and	
chemokines in the co-culture system of NK92 cells with MDAMB231 cancer cells.	90
4.4. Effect of succinate treatments on NK92 cell activation status and cytokines / chemokines profile in co-culture conditions.	93
4.4.1. Effect of succinate treatments on the co-cultured NK92 cell viability.	93
4.4.2. Effect of succinate treatments on the co-cultured NK92 cell activation status.	94
4.4.3. Effect of succinate treatments on HIF1α in the co-cultured NK92 cells.	94
4.4.4. Effect of succinate treatments on the profile of secreted cytokines and	
chemokines in the co-culture system.	94
4.5. Effect of supplementation with 50μM succinate in different folate treatments on NK92 cell activation status and cytokines / chemokines profile in co-culture conditions.	99
4.5.1. Effect of folate treatments in the presence of 50μM succinate on the co-cultured NK92 cell viability.	100
4.5.2. Effect of folate treatments in the presence of 50μM succinate on the co- cultured NK92 cell activation status.	100

4.5.3. Effect of folate treatments in the presence of 50μM succinate on HIF1α in the co-cultured NK92 cell.	100
 4.5.4. Effect of folate treatments in the presence of 50μM succinate on the profile of secreted cytokines and chemokines in the co-culture system. 	99
4.6. Differences in the effect of folate treatments on NK92 cells between mono-	105
culture and co-culture systems.4.6.1. Differences in the effect of folate treatments between mono-culture and co-culture systems on the activation status of NK92 cells.	105
4.6.2. Differences in the effect of folate treatments between mono-culture and co-culture systems on HIF1 α in NK92 cells.	105
4.7. Differences in the effect of succinate treatments on NK92 cells between monoculture and co-culture systems.	108
4.7.1. Differences in the effect of succinate treatments between mono-culture and co-culture systems on the activation status of NK92 cells.	108
4.7.2. Differences in the effect of succinate treatments between mono-culture and co-culture systems on HIF1α of NK92 cells.	107
4.8. Differences in the effect of folate treatments on NK92 cells between co-culture without succinate intervention and co-culture with 50μM succinate.	111
4.8.1. Differences in the effect of folate treatments on the activation status of NK92 cells in co-culture system between with and without 50μM succinate intervention.	111
4.8.2. Differences in the effect of folate treatments on HIF1 α of NK92 cells in co-culture system between with and without 50 μ M succinate intervention.	111
4.9. Differences in the effect of folate treatments on cytokines / chemokines profile between co-culture systems without and with 50μM succinate intervention.	114
Chapter V: Discussion	117 - 130
Chapter VI: Summary and Conclusion	131 - 142
6.1. Summary	132
6.2. Conclusion	141

References	143 - 166
Appendixes	167 - 196
Appendix I: Flow cytometry plots Appendix II: RT-PCR plots	168 - 194
	195 - 196

LIST OF TABLES

Chapter III	Material and Methods	Page No.
Table 1	The genes and sequences of primers used in RT-PCR.	53 - 54
Table 2	The primary and secondary antibodies and the used dilutions for western blotting.	56