Table of Contents

List of Figures and Tables	i
List of Abbreviations	iii
Abstract	vii

CHAPTER ONE

1.	INTRODUCTION	1	
	1.1 Central Nervous System glial cells		
	1.1.1 Astrocytes	3	
	1.1.2 Microglia	3	
	1.1.3 Oligodendrocytes	4	
	1.2 CNS myelination	4	
	1.2.1 Myelin: Structure and composition	5	
	1.2.2 Mechanism of myelination	10	
	1.2.3 Myelin Function	13	
	1.3 Axo-glial interactions		
	1.4 Astrocytes		
	1.4.1 Morphology and distribution in the CNS	17	
	1.4.2 Astrocytic functions	19	
	1.5 Astrocytes in myelination	20	
	1.6 Methyl CpG binding Protein 2 (MeCP2)	23	
	1.6.1 MeCP2 and Rett Syndrome	24	
	1.6.2 MeCP2 Structure	25	
	1.6.3 MeCP2 and Neurons	26	
	1.7 Glia and MeCP2	27	
	1.7.1 Astrocytes and MeCP2	27	
	1.7.2 Oligodendrocytes and MeCP2	30	
	1.7.3 Microglia and MeCP2	30	

1.8 Involvement of Astrocytes in disease	
1.8.1 Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	31
1.8.2 Leukodystrophies	33
1.8.3 Alzheimer's disease (AD)	34
1.8.4 Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	34
1.9 Rationale of the Present Study	
1.10 Hypothesis	
1.11 Objectives	

CHAPTER TWO

2. MA	TER	IALS AND METHODS	37
2.	1	Mixed glial cell isolation	38
2.2	2	Dorsal Root Ganglion neuronal (DRGN) cell isolation	39
2.	3	Establishment of Myelinating Co-Culture: [Astrocytes,	
		DRGN and Oligodendrocytes]	39
2.4	4	siRNA transfection	41
2.:	5	Real time PCR	41
2.	6	Protein Extraction and Quantification, SDS-PAGE and	
		Western Blotting	42
2.	7	Immunocytochemistry (ICC)	44
2.	8	BrdU Assay	45
2.	9	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)	45
2.	10	MTT Assay	46
2.	11	Myelin extraction	46
2.	12	Protein precipitation, In-gel digestion and MALDI-TOF	47
2.	13	Statistical Analysis	48

CHAPTER THREE

3.	TO	DETERMINE THE ROLE OF MeCP2 ON ASTRO	CYTE
SEC	CRETH	ED FACTORS REGULATING MYELINATION	49
	3.1	Introduction	50
	3.2	Strategy of work	51
	3.3	3.3 Results	52
		3.3.1 Immunocytochemical characterization of astroc	ytic
		culture and MeCP2 siRNA knockdown	52
		3.3.2 Effect on astrocytic MeCP2 on secreted factors	
		promoting myelination	52
		3.3.3 MeCP2 alters neurotrophins expression in	
		astrocytes	53
		3.3.4 Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization	
		Time-of-Flight (MALDI-TOF) Analysis	53
	3.4	Discussion	54
	3.5	Conclusion	57

CHAPTER FOUR

4.	TOI	DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF MeCP2 DEFICIENT	
AST	FROCY	TES ON OLIGODENDROCYTES AND NEURONA	L
SUI	RVIVA	L, PROLIFERATION AND DIFFERENTIATION	67
	4.1	Introduction	68
	4.2	Strategy of work	69
	4.3	Results	70
		4.3.1 Astrocytic MeCP2 support in Oligodendrocytes	
		precursor cells (OPCs) survival and proliferation	70
		4.3.2 Astrocytic MeCP2 support in Oligodendrocytes	

4.5	Conclusion	74
4.4	1.4 Discussion	
	neuronal growth and survival	71
	4.3.3 Astrocytic MeCP2 is involved in supporting a	ıormal
	Differentiation	70

CHAPTER FIVE

5.	TO	STUDY THE EFFECT OF ASTROCYTIC MeCP2 O	N		
AX	0-GLI	AL INTERACTIONS AND EVENTS OF			
MY	MYELINATION 81				
	5.1	Introduction	82		
	5.2	Strategy of work	84		
	5.3	Results	84		
		5.3.1 Regulation of axo-glial interaction genes by			
		MeCP2 in oligodendrocytes	84		
		5.3.2 Regulation of axo-glial interaction genes by			
		MeCP2 in Dorsal Root Ganglion neurons (DRGN)	85		
		5.3.3 Establishment of Astrocyte-DRGN-			
		Oligodendrocyte triple co-cultures	85		
		5.3.4 Effect of Astrocytic MeCP2 on axo-glial			
		interaction genes in Astrocytes-DRGN-			
		Oligodendrocytes co-culture	86		
		5.3.5 Effect of Astrocytic MeCP2 on myelin genes in			
		Astrocytes-DRGN- Oligodendrocytes co-culture	86		
		5.3.6 Effect of Astrocytic MeCP2 on myelin protein			
		and total protein yield in Astrocytes-DRGN-			
		Oligodendrocytes co-culture	87		
	5.4	Discussion	87		
	5.5	Conclusion	91		

CHAPTER SIX	
6. Summary	101
List of Publications	104
Bibliography	106

Appendix: Publication from this thesis