

# CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....</b>	<b>13</b>
1.1 BREAST CANCER: LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH WORLDWIDE .....	14
1.2 BREAST CANCER TYPES AND TREATMENT.....	14
1.3 TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT AND MODULATION OF IMMUNE RESPONSE FOR ANTI-CANCER THERAPY .	15
1.4 ACTIVATION OF CGAS-STING PATHWAY:.....	17
1.5 cGAS: EMERGING ASSOCIATION WITH CANCER .....	20
1.6 cGAS-STING; MASTER REGULATOR OF INNATE IMMUNE RESPONSE DURING CHROMOSOMAL INSTABILITY AND DNA DAMAGE CONDITIONS .....	21
1.7 FACTORS MODULATING cGAS ACTIVITY DURING TUMORIGENESIS:.....	23
1.7.1 <i>dsDNA; cGAS does not differentiate between self and non-self-DNA</i> .....	23
1.7.2 <i>Phosphorylation of cGAS:</i> .....	23
1.7.3 <i>Ubiquitination of cGAS:</i> .....	24
1.7.4 <i>Other post-translational modifications of cGAS:</i> .....	25
1.7.5 <i>Acetylation of cGAS:</i> .....	25
1.7.6 <i>Mn<sup>2+</sup> as a cofactor of cGAS:</i> .....	26
1.8 2'3'cGAMP AND OTHER CYCLIC DINUCLEOTIDES: CRITICAL FACTOR REGULATING cGAS AND STING PATHWAY: .....	28
1.9 STING ACTIVATION AND REGULATION:.....	29
1.9.1 <i>Ubiquitin-mediated regulation of STING:</i> .....	29
1.9.2 <i>Autophagy-mediated regulation of STING-mediated inflammation:</i> .....	30
1.9.3 <i>Negative regulators of STING-mediated pathways:</i> .....	30
1.9.4 <i>Metabolic reprogramming and STING:</i> .....	31
1.9.5 <i>Phosphodiesterase regulates STING activation</i> .....	32
1.10 DIFFERENTIAL EXPRESSION OF STING IN TUMORS DETERMINES TYPE-1 INTERFERON RESPONSE IN TME: .....	33
1.11 MODULATION OF CGAS-STING PATHWAY FOR TUMOR CELL-SPECIFIC APOPTOSIS: .....	34
1.12 cGAS-STING: EXPLOITATION IN ONCO-IMMUNOTHERAPY .....	35
1.13 STING AGONIST: NATURAL CYCLIC DINUCLEOTIDE MODIFIED OR SYNTHETIC: .....	37
1.13.2 <i>Cyclic dinucleotide:</i> .....	37
1.13.3 <i>Non-dinucleotide:</i> .....	39
1.14 THE EXPLOITATION OF CGAS-STING PATHWAY WITH COMBINATION TREATMENT FOR ANTI-CANCER THERAPY .....	40
<b>2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>46</b>
2.1. RATIONALE OF HYPOTHESIS .....	47
2.2. <i>Objectives</i> .....	48
<b>3. MATERIALS AND METHODS.....</b>	<b>49</b>
3.1. CELLS AND CELL CULTURE .....	50
3.2. PLASMIDS AND REAGENTS .....	50
3.3. GENERATION OF cGAS -SGRNA AND P65-SGRNA CLONES .....	51
3.4 TRANSFECTION .....	51
3.5 COLLECTION OF TISSUES.....	51
3.6 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF GENE EXPRESSION .....	52
3.7 WESTERN BLOT .....	52
3.8 NF-κB, IFN-β LUCIFERASE ASSAY AND IL-6 ELISA .....	53
3.9 CELL GROWTH INHIBITION ASSAY AND CLONOGENIC ASSAY .....	53
3.10 MOLECULAR DOCKING AND CELLULAR THERMAL SHIFT ASSAY .....	54
3.12 CELL SURFACE EXPRESSION OF PD-L1 .....	55

3.13 FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY .....	55
3.14 PARP CLEAVAGE .....	55
3.15 3D SPHEROID INHIBITION ASSAY .....	55
3.16 SUBCELLULAR FRACTIONATION .....	56
3.17 SURVIVAL ANALYSIS .....	56
3.18 TIMER DATABASE ANALYSIS .....	56
3.19 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS .....	56
<b>4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>4.1 EXPRESSION ANALYSIS OF CGAS AND STING IN BREAST CANCER.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<i>4.1.1 Expression analysis of cGAS and STING in different breast cancer cell lines.....</i>	59
<i>4.1.2 Expression analysis of cGAS and STING in breast cancer patients.....</i>	60
<i>4.1.3 Discussion .....</i>	61
<b>4.2 TO STUDY THE CROSSTALK BETWEEN CGAS AND STING AND ITS EFFECT ON TUMORIGENESIS OF BREAST CANCER.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<i>4.2.1 DNA damage induces NF-<math>\kappa</math>B activation in STING positive triple-negative breast cancer cells ..</i>	63
<i>4.2.2 STING mediated NF-<math>\kappa</math>B activation induces IL-6 expression in triple-negative breast cancer cells in DNA damage conditions: .....</i>	66
<i>4.2.3 The knockdown of STING sensitizes breast cancer cells to genotoxic stress and inhibits clonogenicity: .....</i>	69
<i>4.2.4 STING-mediated IL-6 induction enhances PD-L1 expression during DNA damage in triple-negative breast cancer cells .....</i>	71
<i>4.2.5 STAT3 inhibitor, HJC0152and doxorubicin act synergistically in breast cancer cells to inhibit cell death.....</i>	74
<i>4.2.6 STING expression positively correlates with IL6 and PD-L1 expression and high STING expression in chemotherapy shows poor survival .....</i>	76
<i>4.2.7 Discussion: .....</i>	78
<b>4.3 TO STUDY OF THE CGAS-STING PATHWAY IN ANTICANCER THERAPY .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<i>4.3.1 c-di AMP induces STING-mediated IFN pathway in breast cancer cell lines: .....</i>	83
<i>4.3.2 c-di-AMP binds to STING .....</i>	85
<i>4.3.3 c-di- AMP activates cell death in ER/PR negative breast cancer cell lines .....</i>	87
<i>4.3.4 STING is essential for c-di-AMP induced cell death.....</i>	89
<i>4.3.5 IRF-3 is indispensable for c-di-AMP-induced apoptosis in ER-negative breast cancer cells.....</i>	90
<i>4.3.6 c-di-AMP induces IRF-3 translocation to mitochondria and induces the mitochondrial-mediated intrinsic pathway of apoptosis.....</i>	92
<i>4.3.7 Discussion: .....</i>	94
<b>4.4 ACTIVATION OF CGAS AND ANTI-CANCER THERAPY .....</b>	<b>97</b>
<i>4.4.1 MnCl<sub>2</sub> activates STING-mediated IFN response.....</i>	98
<i>4.4.2 cGAS and STING are indispensable for MnCl<sub>2</sub>-mediated IFN activation in breast cancer cells</i>	100
<i>4.4.3 MnCl<sub>2</sub> sensitizes breast cancer cells to paclitaxel-induced cell death: .....</i>	101
<i>4.4.4 Combination of MnCl<sub>2</sub> and Paclitaxel enhanced immunogenic cell death of breast cancer cells.</i>	103
<i>4.4.5 Discussion: .....</i>	105
<b>5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>107</b>
<i>5.1. SUMMARY: .....</i>	108
<i>5.1.1. Expression of cGAS and STING in breast cancer cell lines and patient tissue .....</i>	108
<i>5.1.2. Role of cGAS and STING during DNA damage conditions.....</i>	108
<i>5.1.3 Role of cGAS STING pathway in anti-cancer therapy .....</i>	110
<i>5.1.4. Role of cGAS STING pathway in anti-cancer therapy .....</i>	111

5.2. CONCLUSION: .....	112
5.3. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY .....	114
5.4. FUTURE PERSPECTIVE .....	115
<b>6. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>7. LIST OF PUBLICATION.....</b>	<b>146</b>
<i>a. Research Articles:</i> .....	147
<i>b. Review Article:</i> .....	147
B. PUBLICATIONS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATED PROJECTS DURING PH.D. TENURE .....	147
<i>a. Research Articles:</i> .....	147
<i>b. Poster Presentation in National and International Conference:</i> .....	148
<b>8. REPRINTS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES.....</b>	<b>149</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>TABLE-1 DIFFERENT DINUCLEOTIDES THAT ACTIVATE THE STING PATHWAY IN DIFFERENT PATHOGENIC CONDITIONS.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>TABLE-2 COMBINATION THERAPY FOR cGAS-STING PATHWAY AS ANTI-CANCER THERAPY.....</b>	<b>43</b>