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PREVIEW

**THE EFFECTS OF BETA AMYLOID PROTEIN AND METHANESULFONYL
FLUORIDE ON COMPLEMENT ACTIVITY**

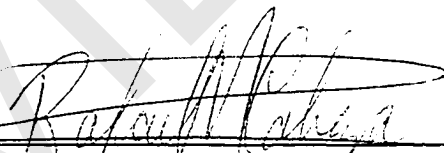
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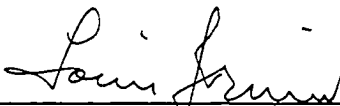
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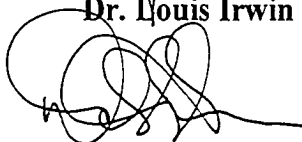
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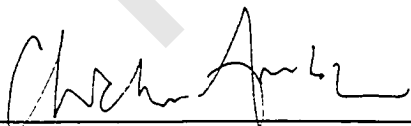
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**Associate Vice President
for Graduate Studies**

DEDICATION

To my parents who taught me to enjoy and believe in what I do.

PREVIEW

**THE EFFECTS OF BETA AMYLOID PROTEIN AND METHANESULFONYL
FLUORIDE ON COMPLEMENT ACTIVITY**

by

HUGO SANDOVAL, B.S.

THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of

The University of Texas at El Paso

in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements

for the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Biological Sciences

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

July, 1998

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to my committee for all the support, supervision and education I have received. I would like to address Dr. Moss and Dr. Berlanga in particular for introducing me to the exciting field of research, Dr. Rael for his support and assistance during my experiments, and Dr. Irwin for his guidance on the Anatomy and Physiology laboratories. I would also like to thank Dr. Rogers and his team for their help in my work. Also, I would like to express gratitude to all the biology faculty and staff, student colleagues, and friends for their help. I would also like to thank Sun Health Research Institute for their collaboration, in particular Dr. Joseph Rogers for all his support and attentions.

March 14, 1998

ABSTRACT

The beta amyloid protein (A β) which forms the core of the extra-cellular plaques found in Alzheimer's Disease has been shown to be involved with complement activation. Activation of the complement system could be a mediator of chronic brain inflammation which is believed to enhance neuronal cell damage and death.

Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and Western blot techniques were used to study A β interaction with the complement proteins. Western Blots were developed with primary antibodies for C2, C3, C4, C5, and Factor B. In these membranes we could detect the cleavage of C2, C3, and C4. Cleavage of Factor B and C5 was not observed. To further the aims of the study a classical pathway hemolysis detection kit was used. Complement activity was reduced by prior incubation of serum with A β protein, providing evidence that A β activates the classical pathway of complement. Additional evidence of classical pathway activation by A β was provided by lysis of human erythrocytes by autologous serum treated with A β .

Another part of this study was to evaluate Methanesulfonyl Fluoride (MSF) as a complement inhibitor. MSF has been used as a specific acetylcholinesterase inhibitor. Its mechanism of action is believed to be due to its binding to a serine residue in the active site. Because of this interaction with serine it might also act to inhibit C1r and C1s of the complement system. To study this interaction and to ascertain if some of the benefits observed with MSF are caused by a reduction in brain inflammation, I used the classical pathway hemolysis detection kit. Complement mediated sheep red blood cell lysis was reduced when serum was incubated with MSF prior to incubation with antibody sensitized sheep red blood cells. The concentration of MSF necessary to inhibit

complement mediated lysis was several hundred times higher than the dose being used for treatment of Alzheimer's Disease. Serum from a patient receiving MSF treatment had a normal level of complement activity suggesting that the benefits of MSF are not caused by complement inhibition.

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