

INDEX

1. Abstract.....	1
2. Introduction.....	2
a. Viruses.....	2
b. Hepatitis Viruses.....	2
c. Hepatitis C Virus.....	5
d. Epidemiology.....	7
e. Clinical Features.....	10
f. HCV Replication.....	10
g. HCV Therapy.....	13
h. Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM).....	14
i. Silymarin.....	14
j. Heme Oxygenase-1 (HO-1).....	18
k. Importance of the Replicons.....	22
3. Overall Goal.....	25
4. Specific Aims.....	25
5. Hypothesis.....	26
6. Justification.....	26
7. Materials and Methods.....	27
a. Chemicals and Antibodies.....	27
b. Routine Cell Culture.....	27
c. Treatment and RNA Isolation.....	28
d. Reverse Transcription.....	29
e. Quantitative Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (qRT-PCR)....	30
f. Treatment and Western Blot.....	31
g. MTT Assay.....	32
h. Statistical Analysis of Data.....	33
8. Results.....	34

a. Determination of optimum Fetal Bovine Serum concentrations for induction of HCV core, HCV NS5A and HO-1 mRNAs in CNS3 and 9-13 cells.....	44
b. Dose response and time course studies of mRNA levels in CNS3 cells treated with Silymarin.....	36
c. Silymarin down-regulates HCV core protein in CNS3 cells...	38
d. Dose response and time course studies of selected mRNA levels in 9-13 cells treated with Silymarin.....	40
e. Silymarin up-regulates HCV NS5A protein levels in 9-13 cells	42
f. HO-1 mRNA induction by Silymarin in wild-type Huh7-cells	44
g. Dose response experiments of Silymarin and interferon on HCV core and HO-1 mRNA levels in CNS3 cells.....	46
h. Effects of the combined treatment of Silymarin and Interferon on HCV core mRNA in CNS3 cells.....	48
i. Silymarin alone or in combination with interferon has similar effects on HCV core protein levels in CNS3 cells.....	50
j. Effects of increasing concentrations of Silymarin and interferon on HCV NS5A and HO-1 mRNA levels in 9-13 cells at 24 and 48 h.....	52
k. The combination of Silymarin and interferon have the same effects on HCV NS5A mRNA levels as treatment with Silymarin alone in 9-13 cells at 24 h.....	54
l. Silymarin alone or in combination with interferon has similar effects on HCV NS5A protein levels in 9-13 cells.....	56
m. Silymarin alone or in combination with interferon up-regulates HO-1 mRNA levels in Huh-7 cells.....	58
n. Silymarin does not affect expression of Bach1 or Nrf2 transcription factors in wild type Huh-7, CNS3 and 9-13 cells.....	60
o. HCV regulation by Silymarin is not related by the Jak-Stat Pathway	64
p. Cytotoxicity of Silymarin in CNS3, 9-13 and Huh-7 cells.....	66

9. Discussion.....	70
10. Conclusions.....	76
11. References.....	77
12. Appendix I.....	85
13. Appendix II.....	87
14. Appendix III.....	88

FIGURES INDEX

Figure 1. HCV Genome Organization.....	6
Figure 2. HCV Life Cycle.....	12
Figure 3. Silymarin Structural Isomers.....	16
Figure 4. Schematic Model of Repression and Induction of HO-1 by Bach1 and Nrf2.....	21
Figure 5. Schematic Representation of the HCV Genomes Used in This Project.....	23

TABLES INDEX

Table 1. Characteristics of Hepatitis Viruses A-G.....	4
Table 2. World prevalence of Hepatitis C.....	9