



**Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering & Technology
Indian Institute of Technology
(Banaras Hindu University)
Varanasi - 221 005**

CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the work contained in the thesis titled “**DESIGN, SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF FERULIC ACID TEMPLATE BASED NATURALLY INSPIRED NOVEL NEUROPROTECTIVE MULTIFUNCTIONAL MOLECULES FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**” by **YASH PAL SINGH** has been carried out under my supervision and that this work has been not submitted elsewhere for a degree.

It is further certified that the student has fulfilled all the requirements of Course work, Comprehensive, Candidacy, SOTA and Pre-submission seminar.

Gyan Prakash Modi 21/12/21

Dr. Gyan Prakash Modi

Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering & Technology

Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi

Gyan Prakash Modi

Assistant Professor, **Pharmaceutical Chemistry**
Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering
& Technology
Indian Institute of Technology (B.H.U.)
Varanasi-221005



Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering & Technology
Indian Institute of Technology
(Banaras Hindu University)
Varanasi - 221 005

DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

I, **Yash Pal Singh**, certify that the work embodied in this Ph.D. thesis is my own bonafide work and carried out by me under the supervision of **Dr. Gyan Prakash Modi** from **July, 2016 to September, 2021** at the **Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering & Technology**, Indian Institute of Technology (B.H.U.), Varanasi. The matter embodied in this thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma.

I declare that I have faithfully acknowledged and given credits to the research workers wherever their works have been cited in my work in this thesis. I further declare that I have not willfully copied any other's work, paragraphs, text, data, results, etc., reported in journals, books, magazines, reports, dissertations, thesis, etc., or available at websites and have not included them in this Ph.D. thesis and have not cited as my own work.

Date: 09/09/21
Place: Varanasi

Yashpal Singh
(Yash Pal Singh)

CERTIFICATE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

It is certified that the above statement made by the student is correct to the best of my/our knowledge.

Gyan Prakash Modi: 09/09/21
(Dr. Gyan Prakash Modi)
Supervisor

Gyan Prakash Modi
Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering
& Technology
Indian Institute of Technology (B.H.U.)
Varanasi-221005

Sushant Kumar Shrivastava: 09/09/21
(Prof. Sushant Kumar Shrivastava)
Head of the Department

विभागाध्यक्ष / Head
भैषजकीय अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग /
Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering & Technology
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान / INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय) / (BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY)
वाराणसी - 221005



Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering & Technology
Indian Institute of Technology
(Banaras Hindu University)
Varanasi - 221 005

COPYRIGHT TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

Title of the Thesis: “**DESIGN, SYNTHESIS AND BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF FERULIC ACID TEMPLATE BASED NATURALLY INSPIRED NOVEL NEUROPROTECTIVE MULTIFUNCTIONAL MOLECULES FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**”

Name of the Student: Mr. YASH PAL SINGH

Copyright Transfer

The undersigned hereby assigns to the Indian Institute of Technology (B.H.U.), Varanasi all rights under copyright that may exist in and for the above thesis submitted for the award of the “**Doctor of Philosophy**”

Date: 09/09/21

Yashpal Singh
(Yash Pal Singh)

Place: Varanasi

Note: However, the author may reproduce or authorize others to reproduce material extracted verbatim from the thesis or derivative of the thesis for author's personal use provided that the source and the Institute's copyright notice are indicated.

Acknowledgements

It is my privilege to express my gratitude to Bharat Ratna Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya ji for his untiring effort to create this holy place of study "Banaras Hindu University".

I would like to record my gratitude to Dr. Gyan Prakash Modi for his supervision, advice, and guidance from the very early stage of my research as well as giving me extraordinary experiences throughout the work. Above all and the most needed, he provided me unflinching encouragement and support in various ways. His truly scientist intuition has made him as a constant oasis of ideas and passions in science, which exceptionally inspired and enriched my growth as a student, a researcher and a scientist want to be. I am indebted to him more than he knows.

I immensely express my profound gratitude to Prof. P. K Jain, Director, Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi and Deans of the institute for providing the basic amenities and sophisticated instrumental facilities for smooth conduct of research.

I am indeed obliged and sincerely thankful to Prof. S. K. Shrivastava, Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering & Technology, Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) for his affection and kindly allowing me to use the facilities required to complete my research work.

I would like to recognize and thank my Research Progress and Evaluation Committee (RPEC) members Prof. S.K. Singh and Dr. Jeyakumar Kandasamy for their encouragement, insightful comments and unconditional support leading me to the completion of the research work. It definitely helped me to proceed in right direction.

I am immensely thankful to all respected faculty members Prof. B. Mishra, Prof. S.K. Singh, Prof. Sanjay Singh, Dr. S. Krishnamurthy, Dr. (Mrs.) Siva Hemalatha, Dr. Senthil A Raja, Dr. A. N. Sahu, Dr. (Mrs.) Ruchi Chawla, Dr. M. S. Muthu, Dr. S. K. Mishra, Dr. S.K. Jain, Dr. A. K. Agrawal, Dr. Vinod Tiwari, Dr. Rajnish, Dr. Deepak Sharma and Dr. Ashok Kumar, for their co-operation & support during my research work.

I am immensely thankful to Dr. S. K. Mishra, Dr. P.K. Nayak, and Dr. S. K. Jain, for their support & valuable suggestions in chemistry and animal model experiments. I express my sincere thanks to Office and technical staff of the Department of Pharmaceutical Engineering & Technology, Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) for maintaining an outstanding atmosphere suitable for research.

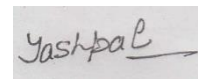
I am also thankful to our collaborators Prof. Doerksen and Dr. Pankaj (Uni. of Mississippi), Dr. Geeta Rai and Khushbo Priya (Department of Human Genetics, BHU), Prof. Prabha Garg and Navneet Kumar (NIPER-Mohali) and Prof. S. Srikrishna and Brijesh Singh Chauhan (Dept. of Biochemistry, BHU) for their research support in my work.

I express my sincere thanks to all lab mates, batchmates, seniors and super seniors for all the moral, social, and technical support during my research work. I am also thankful to Ministry of Education, Govt. of India for providing financial support that immensely help me to manage my livelihood in Varanasi and achieve my research goal.

I am also thankful to Central instrumental facility (CIF), Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) for NMR, AFM and TEM facility. I am also thankful to Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, and North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat for HRMS facility.

Last but not the least, I would like to express my heartiest and sincere regards to my whole family, specially my admirable mother, awesome father, loving wife, caring brother and helping sister-in-Law, whose unconditional love, and moral support, encouraged me more and more to prosper during my studies.

I take great privilege to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who have directly or indirectly helped me getting through this research work successfully.



Date: 13/09/2021

Yash Pal Singh

Place: IIT(BHU), Varanasi

Table of Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	i-v
<i>List of tables</i>	vi-vii
<i>List of schemes</i>	viii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	ix
<i>List of symbols</i>	x
<i>Preface</i>	xi

Chapters	Page No.
1. Introduction	1-14
1.1. Alzheimer's disease (AD)	1-2
1.2. Statistics of AD	2-3
1.3. Pathophysiology of AD	3-12
1.3.1. Role of acetyl and butyrylcholines in AD	3-5
1.3.2. Role of amyloid beta (A β) and tau proteins in AD	5-7
1.3.3. Role of metals in AD	7-9
1.3.4. Role of oxidative stress in AD	9-11
1.3.5. Role of β -secretase in AD	11-12
1.4. Current drug targets for AD	12-14
1.4.1. Cholinesterases (ChEs)	12-13
1.4.1.N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor	14
2. Literature Review	15-50
2.1. Current therapies for AD	15-17
2.1.1. Cholinesterase inhibitors (ChEIs)	15-16
2.1.2. Noncompetitive NMDA antagonists	16-17
2.2. Antioxidant therapy for AD	17-18
2.3. Ferulic acid (FA) and AD	18-21
2.4. FA as a potential therapeutic agent for AD	21-24
2.4.1. Water-soluble ferulic acid (FA) derivatives	21
2.4.2. Dimeric derivative of FA	22
2.4.3. Development of FA ester as a memory enhancer	23-24
2.5. FA based hybrid molecules for AD	25-51
2.5.1. FA-Donepezil based hybrid molecules for AD	24-29
2.5.1.1. FA-alkylamine-benzylpiperidine hybrids (FAHs)	24-25
2.5.1.2. N-benzylpiperidine (NBP)-FA hybrid derivatives	25-26
2.5.1.3. FA-O-alkylamine derivatives	26
2.5.1.4. FA-N-alkyl benzyl piperidinediamide derivative	27
2.5.2. FA-tacrine based hybrid molecules for AD	30-34
2.5.2.1. FA-tacrine alkylenediamine hybrid molecules (TFAHs)	30
2.5.2.2. FA-tacrine-diamide side-chain derivatives	30
2.5.2.3. FA-ethylenediamine tacrine derivatives	31
2.5.2.4. FA-tacrine-melatonin hybrids (FATMHs)	32
2.5.2.5. FA-tacrine piperazine amine side chain hybrids	33
2.5.2.6. FA tacrine-nitric oxide donor trihybrid derivatives	33-34
2.5.3. FA-rivastigmine derivatives	37
2.5.4. FA-N-benzyl-piperidine and N, N-dibenzyl (N-methyl) amine derivatives	37-38
2.5.5. FA and memantine derivatives	38-39
2.5.6. FA-isoquinoline hybrids	39-40

2.5.7. FA- <i>O</i> -carbamoyl ferulamide derivative.....	40-41
2.5.8. FA-carbazole hybrid derivatives.....	41-42
2.5.9. FA-tertiary amine side chain derivatives.....	42-43
2.5.10. FA-mamoquin hybrids.....	43
2.5.11. Isosorbide-2-benzylcarbamate-5-ferulate or lipoic acid ester derivatives...	47
2.5.12. FA and 1,3,4-oxadiazole derived hybrids.....	48
2.5.13. 7- <i>O</i> -Esters of taxifolin and FA derived hybrids.....	48-49
2.5.14. FA-quinolone hybrids.....	49
2.5.15. FA-berberine hybrid analogs.....	49-50
3. Objectives, Rational and Plan of Work.....	51-57
3.1. Objectives and Rationale.....	53-54
3.2. Plan of Work.....	56
3.2. Schemes for the synthesis of FA template based novel compounds	57-58
4. Results and Discussion.....	58-138
4.1. Chemistry involved in synthesizing the first series of compounds.....	58-59
4.2. Biological evaluation of the first series of compounds.....	59
4.2.1. <i>In-vitro</i> cholinesterases inhibition (AChE and BChE) studies.....	59-68
4.2.2. Evaluation of antioxidant property.....	69-70
4.2.3. <i>In-vitro</i> cholinesterases (AChE and BChE) inhibition kinetic studies with the lead molecules.....	71
4.2.4. Measurement of propidium iodide displacement from the peripheral anionic site (PAS) of AChE.....	72
4.2.5. Evaluation of iron chelation property of the lead molecules.....	72-74
4.2.6. Evaluation of A β ₁₋₄₂ aggregation modulation activity of lead molecule	75-76
4.2.7. Molecular docking study with AChE and BChE.....	77-78
4.2.8. Molecular dynamics (MD) simulation studies with AChE.....	78-79
4.2.9. Molecular dynamics (MD) simulation studies with BChE.....	80-81
4.2.10. Calculation of physicochemical parameters.....	81-83
4.2.11. Evaluation of cytotoxicity of lead molecule.....	83-84
4.2.12. Neuroprotection studies with 7a (F24) on H ₂ O ₂ induced cell death and morphological alterations.....	84-87
4.2.13. Intracellular ROS modulation studies with 7a (F24)	87-88
4.2.14. Protective effects of 7a (F24) against H ₂ O ₂ -induced DNA fragmentation and apoptosis.....	88-89
4.2.15. Neuroprotection Studies against A β ₁₋₄₂ induced aggregation modulation property of 7a (F24)	90
4.2.16. <i>In-vitro</i> blood-brain barrier (BBB) permeation study.....	91
4.2.17. Evaluation of <i>in-vivo</i> efficacy of 7a in the AD model of Drosophila..	92-93
4.2.18. Molecular docking and dynamics simulations studies of 7a (F24) with A β ₁₋₄₂ fibrils	94-96
4.2.19. Evaluation of A β ₁₋₄₂ fibrils disintegration property of 7a (F24) using molecular dynamics simulations.....	96-99
4.2.20. Principal component analysis (PCA) of protofibril and protofibril- 7a (F24) complex.....	99-100
4.2.21. Acute toxicity studies on mice.....	101
4.2.22. Evaluation of <i>in-vivo</i> efficacy of 7a in scopolamine-induced AD mice model	
4.2.23. Ex-vivo neurochemicals estimation and antioxidant property evaluation..	103
4.2.24. Evaluation of <i>in-vivo</i> efficacy of 7a (F24) in scopolamine-induced AD mice model (Watermaze).....	105-107
4.3.1. Chemistry involved in synthesizing the second series of compounds.....	108
4.3.2. Biology involved with the second series of compounds.....	108
4.3.2.1. Design of second series of novel naturally inspired FA analogs.....	108-110
4.3.2.2. Cholinesterases inhibition studies.....	110-116
4.3.2.3. Antioxidant activity (DPPH radical scavenging activity).....	117-118

4.3.2.4. Kinetic studies of ChEs inhibition.....	118-119
4.3.2.5. Peripheral anionic site (PAS) binding study.....	119-120
4.3.2.6. Molecular modeling studies.....	120-131
4.3.2.6.1. Molecular docking.....	120-122
4.3.2.6.2. Interaction of ligands 13k and 23b with hAChE.....	122-125
4.3.2.6.3. Interaction of ligands 13k and 23b to hBChE.....	125-127
4.3.2.6.4. Analysis of binding free energy.....	127-129
4.3.2.6.5. Analysis of structural stability, compactness and solvent accessibility surface area.....	129-131
4.3.2.7. Calculation of physicochemical parameters.....	129-130
4.3.2.8. Metal chelation study.....	132-133
4.3.2.9. <i>In-vitro</i> evaluation of cytotoxicity of compound 23b	134
4.3.2.10. Neuroprotective effect of 23b on H ₂ O ₂ induced SH-SY5Y cell injury....	135
4.3.2.11. <i>In-vitro</i> blood-brain barrier permeation assay.....	136
4.3.2.12. 23b ameliorates scopolamine-induced cognitive impairment in the Morris water maze test.....	137-139
5. Experimental Section	140-192
5.1. Materials and methods.....	140-169
5.2. Biological evaluation.....	169-192
6. Summary and Conclusions	193-198
References	199-215
Appendix	216-227
List of Publications	228-229
Curriculum Vitae	230-234

List of Figures

Figure No.	Description	Page No.
1.1	Diagrammatic representation of acetylcholine synthesis, metabolism, and its mode of action.	4
1.2	Mechanism of substrate cleavage through AChE.	5
1.3	Fenton reaction by which H ₂ O ₂ forms hydroxyl radical in iron rich environment.	8
1.4	Schematic representation of role of iron in AD.	9
1.5	Diagrammatic representation indicating the role of ROS and metals in AD progression.	10
1.6	Diagrammatic representation indicating the role of β -secretase in A β aggregation.	11
1.7	Schematic view of the active site of AChE.	13
1.8	NMDA receptor complex as therapeutic target in AD.	14
2.1	Chemical structures of the drugs for the treatment of AD.	17
2.2	Chemical structures of the natural products known for the anti-AD effect.	18
2.3	Structures of novel ferulate ester derivatives with improved water solubility and potency in AD model.	22
2.4	Chemical structures of ferulic acid (FA)-donepezil (DPZ) based hybrid molecules.	28
2.5	Chemical structures of FA-tacrine derived hybrid molecules.	34
2.6	Chemical structures of FA-rivastigmine based hybrid molecules hybrid.	37
2.7	Chemical structures of various developed potent hybrids based on ferulamides derivatives of NBP, DMBA, tetrahydroisoquinoline and memantine.	40
2.8	Chemical structures of potent FA based hybrid analogs derived using fragments from memoquin, rivastigmine, carbazole, and tertiary amine side chain.	44
2.9	Chemical structures of FA based miscellaneous hybrid analogs.	50
3.1	Overview of the designed study.	54
4.1	2D interaction diagram of (A) DPZ and (B) FA with various amino acids of the AChE cavity.	61
4.2	Overlay of docked donepezil and co-crystallized donepezil.	61

4.3	Schematic pipeline toward the development of novel FA derivatives with favorable properties.	62
4.4	2D interaction diagram of (A) 4f with AChE (PDB #4EY7); (B) 4f with BChE (PDB #4BDS); (C) 7a with AChE; and (D) 7a with BChE.	65
4.5	Binding interactions (2D) of 7a (A) Pose I and (B) Pose II with various amino acids of AChE active cavity (two different binding modes).	66
4.6	Binding interactions (2D) of 10b with various amino acids of AChE active cavity.	68
4.7	Structural optimization and a brief summary of SAR with FA analogs.	68
4.8	Percent radical scavenging activity of 4f , 4g , 4i , 4j , 7a , 7b , 10b and FA .	69
4.9	Proposed mechanism for radical scavenging activity of 7a .	70
4.10	Kinetics study on the mechanism of ChE inhibition by compound 7a .	71
4.11	UV absorbance spectrum of compounds 7a and 4f alone and in the presence of FeCl ₃ in water at various pH.	74
4.12	Inhibition of self-induced A β ₁₋₄₂ aggregation in the presence of 7a , FA and DPZ. (AFM images).	76
4.13	(A) Docked pose of 7a and acetylcholine into the active site of AChE. (B) Overlaid docked pose of 7a and DPZ into the active site of AChE.	78
4.14	(A) Protein-ligand RMSD. (B) RMSF (C) 7a interactions with the key amino acid residues. (D) Bar charts of protein interaction with ligand 7a as monitored throughout the simulation.	79
4.15	(A) Protein RMSD and ligand RMSD indicate the stability of the ligand 7a with respect to BChE and its active pocket. (B) RMSF plot based on C α atoms of BChE for the BChE- 7a complex.	80
4.16	The simulation interactions diagram (SID) plot showing the protein-ligand interactions between the amino acid residues of the BChE binding site and 7a .	81
4.17	Binding interactions (2D) of 7a with various amino acids of BChE (PDB ID: 4BDS) active site.	81
4.18	Effect of 7a on cell viability.	84
4.19	Effect of 7a (F24) against H ₂ O ₂ mediated cell death.	85

4.20	Representative images of SH-SY5Y cells morphological alterations induced by H ₂ O ₂ and the effect of 7a (F24) .	87
4.21	Intracellular ROS modulation studies with 7a (F24) .	88
4.22	Detection of TUNEL-positive apoptotic strand breaks.	89
4.23	Protective effect of 7a (F24) against A β induced cell death.	91
4.24	The histogram represents the <i>in-vivo</i> effects of 7a (F24) on wild type and A β ₄₂ expressing flies.	93
4.25	(A) Interaction of 7a (F24) with A β ₁₋₄₂ protofibrils. (B) Surface representation 7a (F24) docked into the pocket of A β ₁₋₄₂ protofibrils. (C) 2D interaction diagram of 7a (F24) with A β ₁₋₄₂ protofibril.	94
4.26	Binding free-energy (kJ/mol) contribution of critical individual residues of different chains in binding 7a (F24) to A β ₁₋₄₂ protofibril.	95
4.27	(A) RMSD, (B) radius of gyration, (C) solvent accessibility surface area, and (D) change in secondary structure content of protofibrils and protofibrils- 7a (F24) complex obtained from molecular dynamics simulation data.	97
4.28	Root mean square fluctuation (RMSF) of each residue for A β ₄₂ and A β ₁₋₄₂ - F24 complex	98
4.29	Projection of the motion of (A) A β ₁₋₄₂ , and (B) A β ₁₋₄₂ - F24 complex in phase space along the first two principal eigenvectors at 300 K.	100
4.30	The eigenvalue rank along with proportion of variance (%) for (A) A β ₁₋₄₂ and (B) A β ₁₋₄₂ - F24 complex.	100
4.31	Histomorphological appearance of liver of mice.	101
4.32	Scopolamine-induced memory deficit in mice.	103
4.33	The <i>ex-vivo</i> AChE, BChE and antioxidant effect of DPZ, compound 7a (F24) , FA and scopolamine.	104
4.34	Scopolamine-induced memory deficit mice model study.	106
4.35	Design of the multifunctional ChEs inhibitors by integrating the structural features of FA derivatives.	113
4.36	ChEs inhibitory activities of selected compounds.	114
4.37	Brief summary of structural activity relationship (SAR).	115
4.38	DPPH scavenging activity by 13k , 23a , 23b , 23c and FA .	117

4.39	Lineweaver-Burk double reciprocal plot showing the mechanism of <i>hAChE</i> and <i>eqBChE</i> inhibition over a range of substrate concentrations	118
4.40	2D interaction diagram of (A) 13k with AChE, (B) 23b with AChE, (C) 13k with BChE, and (D) 23b with BChE.	122
4.41	Interactions fraction histogram of (A) DPZ, (B) 13k , and (C) 23b with <i>hAChE</i> .	123
4.42	Top panel shows the total number of specific contacts the <i>hAChE</i> makes with the (A) DPZ, (B) 13k , and (C) 23b over the course of the trajectory frame.	124
4.43	Interactions fraction histogram of (A) Tacrine, (B) DPZ, (C) 13k , and (D) 23b with <i>hBChE</i> .	125
4.44	Top panel shows the total number of specific contacts the <i>hBChE</i> makes with the (A) Tacrine, (B) DPZ, (C) 13k , and (D) 23b over the course of the trajectory frame.	126
4.45	Binding free energy of (A) AChE with ligands 13k and 23b , and (B) BChE with ligands 13k , and 23b	127
4.46	Backbone RMSD plot for (A) apo-AChE in comparison with AChE-DPZ, AChE- 13k , and AChE- 23b , (B) apo-BChE in comparison with BChE-DPZ, BChE-Tacrine, BChE- 13k , and BChE- 23b .	128
4.47	The radius of gyration plot for (A) apo-AChE in comparison with AChE-DPZ, AChE- 13k , and AChE- 23b , and (B) apo-BChE in comparison with BChE-DPZ, BChE-Tacrine, BChE- 13k , and BChE- 23b .	129
4.48	Percentage decrease in SASA of active site residues (20 Å) away from the bound ligand) of (A) AChE and (B) BChE.	129
4.49	2D interaction diagram of (A) <i>hAChE</i> with DPZ (B) <i>hBChE</i> with DPZ and (C) <i>hBChE</i> with Tacrine.	130
4.50	UV absorbance spectra of 23b alone or in the presence of FeCl ₃ in methanol (pH 4.2 and 7.4).	132
4.51	Effect of 23b on cell viability.	133
4.52	Effect of 23b against H ₂ O ₂ mediated cell death.	134
4.53	Schematic schedule of experimental design to study the anti-amnesic effect of compound 23b .	137

4.54	Escape latency time (in second) from Day 1 to Day 4.	137
4.55	Scopolamine-induced memory deficit mice model study.	138
A1-A3	¹ H-NMR, ¹³ C-NMR and HRMS spectra of (<i>E</i>)-N-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-N-(2-((3-methoxyphenyl)amino)-2oxoethyl)acrylamide (4f).	216- 218
A4-A6	¹ H-NMR, ¹³ C-NMR and HRMS spectra of (<i>E</i>)-N-(2-((1H-indol-5-yl) amino)-2-oxoethyl)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)acrylamide (7a).	219- 221
A7-A9	¹ H-NMR, ¹³ C-NMR and HRMS spectra of (<i>E</i>)-1-(4-(3-fluorobenzyl) piperazin-1-yl)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (13k.HCl).	222- 224
A10- A12	¹ H-NMR, ¹³ C-NMR and HRMS spectra of (<i>E</i>)-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-N-(2-((2-(5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)acrylamide (23b).	225- 227

List of Tables

Table No.	Description	Page No.
2.1	<i>In-vitro</i> biological data for evaluating the therapeutic potential of hybrid analogs based on novel ferulic acid (FA)-donepezil (DPZ) and their mode of action.	29
2.2	In-vitro biological data for the evaluation of the therapeutic potential of hybrid analogs based on novel FA-tacrine-based hybrid analogs and their mode of action.	35-36
2.3	<i>In-vitro</i> biological data for evaluating the therapeutic potential of hybrid analogs based on FA and their mode of action.	45-46
4.1	Cholinesterase inhibitory activities of the target compounds.	67-68
4.2	Antioxidant activity (DPPH assay) of 4f , 4g , 4i , 4j , 7a , 10b , and FA .	70
4.3	Displacement of propidium iodide from the peripheral anionic site of AChE by 7a , FA and DPZ at the indicated concentrations.	72
4.4	Theoretical prediction of physiochemical parameters of the developed compounds.	82-83
4.5	Permeability in the PAMPA-BBB assay for 7a , testosterone, imipramine, corticosterone, hydrocortisone, and DPZ with their predictive BBB-penetration.	91
4.6	Binding free energy between A β ₁₋₄₂ protofibrils and 7a (F24) in the last 10 ns MD simulation.	96
4.7	Time-average and standard deviation of RMSD, Rg, and SASA value along with the sum of Eigen values for A β ₁₋₄₂ protofibril and A β ₁₋₄₂ protofibril- 7a (F24) Complex.	97
4.8	Average binding free energy along with its individual contributing terms for chain C and D of protofibril in presence and absence of 7a (F24).	99
4.9	Structures, ChEs inhibitory activities, cLogP, and tPSA of compounds 13a-13p , 18a-18c and 23a-23c .	113-114
4.10	Antioxidant activity (DPPH assay) of 13a , 13c , 13f , 13h , 13i , 13k-13l , 18a-18c , 23a-23c and FA .	116

4.11	Displacement of propidium iodide from the peripheral anionic site of AChE by 13k , 23b , 23c , and DPZ at the indicated concentrations.	119
4.12	Docking results (docking score, XP GScore, glide gscore, and glide emodel) and interaction details between the <i>h</i> AChE and different FA analogs.	120
4.13	Docking results (docking score, XP GScore, glide gscore, and glide emodel) and interaction details between the BChE and different FA analogs.	120-121
4.14	The average ΔG_{bind} and its different contributing energy terms for 13k and 23b against hAChE and hBChE calculated from MD trajectories (last 25) ns.	127
4.15	Calculation of physicochemical parameters of the developed molecules.	130-131
4.16	Permeability in the PAMPA-BBB assay for 13k , 23b , DPZ, testosterone, corticosterone, and hydrocortisone with their predictive BBB penetration.	135

List of Schemes

Schemes	Description	Page No.
Scheme 1	Synthesis of FA-acetamide derivatives 4a-4q .	55
Scheme 2	Synthesis of FA-Indole or quinoline derivatives.	55
Scheme 3	Synthesis of FA tethered to <i>N</i> -phenyl-piperazine scaffolds 10a-10g .	56
Scheme 4	Synthesis of benzylpiperazine derivatives 13a-13p .	56
Scheme 5	Synthesis of FA-alanine-amide compounds 18a-18c .	57
Scheme 6	Synthesis of FA-tryptamine-glycine amide 23a-23c .	57

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Full forms
AD	Alzheimer's disease
ACh	Acetylcholine
<i>h</i> ACh	Human acetylcholine
AChE	Acetylcholinesterase
ADME	Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, and Excretion
AFM	Atomic force microscopy
ATCI	Acetylthiocholine iodide
BTCI	Butyrylthiocholine iodide
BChE	Butyrylcholinesterase
BBB	Blood-Brain Barrier
CAS	Catalytic active site
CDCl ₃	Deuterated chloroform
DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆	Deuterated dimethyl sulfoxide- <i>d</i> ₆
DPZ	Donepezil
DTNB	5,5'-dithiobis-2-nitrobenzoic acid
DPPH	2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl
EDCI.HCl	1-[3-(dimethylamino)-propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride
FA	Ferulic acid
HBA	Hydrogen bond acceptor
HBD	Hydrogen bond donor
HRMS	High-resolution mass spectrometry
HOBt	<i>N</i> -hydroxybenzotriazole
IC ₅₀	Inhibitory concentration required to kill 50% of the population
MW	Molecular weight
MTT	3- (4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium
PAS	Peripheral anionic site
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
TMS	Tetramethylsilane

List of Symbols

Symbols	Meaning
α	Alpha
β	Beta
δ	Delta
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	Degree Celsius
\AA	Angstrom
mg	Milligram
μg	Micro gram
μM	Micromole
mmol	Millimole
mL	Milliliter
μL	Microliter
h	Hour
s	Singlet
nm	Nanometer
μm	Micrometer
mm	Millimeter
cm	Centimeter
ppm	Parts per million
rpm	Revolutions per minute
Kcal	Kilocalories
Hz	Hertz
MHz	Megahertz
J	Coupling constant
d	Doublet
t	Triplet
m	Multiplet
dd	Doublet of doublet
m/z	Mass to charge ratio
%	Percent
pH	Potential of hydrogen
\leq	Less than or equal
$<$	Less than
$>$	More than
\pm	Plus or minus

Preface

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is an age-related neurodegenerative disorder, which accounts for more than 80% of dementia cases worldwide in older people. It is characterized by the deposition of A β plaque and neurofibrillary tangles. The disease leads to progressive loss of memory, functional ability to learn and is primarily characterized by the progressive loss of memory associated with other cognitive deficits.

Despite decades of study on the etiology of disease and also significant efforts by the pharmaceutical industry to develop therapies, there is no effective treatment available to cure AD or inhibit its progression significantly. However, there are four drugs *viz.* donepezil, galantamine, and rivastigmine, approved by USFDA, acting on cholinergic pathway and memantine acting on NMDA receptor. Given the complex and multifactorial nature of the disease, the development of multifunctional ligands was considered a better option.

The present study is being divided into six chapters:

Chapter 1 deals with Alzheimer's disease (AD), pathophysiology, and current treatments for AD.

Chapter 2 provides insight into the literature reports related to the relevant work.

Chapter 3 includes the hypothesis, rationale, and plan of the work.

Chapter 4 deals with the rationale for synthesizing and evaluating novel ferulic acid glycine/piperazine amide/benzylpiperazine/tryptamine derivatives. The designed molecules were promoted to synthesis and *in-vitro* enzyme inhibition studies. The potent molecules obtained from the *in-vitro* study were further investigated for enzyme kinetics, antioxidant, metal chelation, A β modulation, and neuroprotection study. Furthermore, lead compounds were selected for *in-vivo* studies in AD animal models to evaluate the working memory and learning response.

Chapter 5 includes the general synthetic procedure involved in the synthesis of targeted compounds and their biological evaluation.

Chapter 6 deals with the conclusion and final summary.