

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.2 Epidemiology.....	1
1.3 PTSD in DSM-V	1
1.4 Pathophysiology of PTSD.....	2
1.4.1 Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal-axis (HPA-axis) theory of PTSD	2
1.4.2 Neurochemical and neuroanatomical theory of PTSD	3
1.4.3 Pathology of PTSD Experimental models.....	5
1.5 Pharmacotherapy of PTSD	6
1.6 Limitations of current therapies.....	6
1.7 Orexin and PTSD.....	7
1.7.1 Orexin receptors and projections in different brain regions	7
1.7.2 Orexin regulates HPA-axis function.....	9
1.7.3 Orexin modulates catecholamine's and monoamines	10
1.8 Animal model of PTSD	11
1.9 Cognitive flexibility and PTSD	13
1.9.1 PTSD, cognitive inflexibility, and cholinergic system.....	13
1.10 Orexin and cognitive flexibility.....	14
1.11 Orexin and mitochondrial function.....	15
1.12 Hypothesis	17
1.13 Objectives	20
CHAPTER 2: EVALUATION OF ANTI-PTSD POTENTIAL OF OREXIN ANTAGONIST IN RATS	
2.1 Introduction	21
2.2 Hypothesis	24
2.3 Materials and methods:.....	26
2.3.1 Animals.....	26

2.3.2 Drugs	26
2.3.3 Experimental protocols.....	26
2.3.3.1 FS as a stress re-stress.....	27
2.3.3.2 Collection of plasma, CSF, and amygdalar tissue.....	28
2.3.4 Behavioural assessments	28
2.3.4.1 Fear extinction behaviour.....	28
2.3.4.2 Elevated plus-maze test (EPM).....	29
2.3.4.3 Spontaneous locomotor activity as a sedative parameter.....	29
2.3.5 Biochemical and neurochemical estimations.....	30
2.3.5.1 Plasma corticosterone level.....	30
2.3.5.2 Estimation of Plasma and CSF orexin-A level.....	29
2.3.5.3 Measurement of serotonin (5-HT) and its metabolite in the amygdala.....	30
2.3.6 Molecular analysis	30
2.3.6.1 Tissue preparation and protein isolation.....	30
2.3.6.2 CRF-R1 western blotting.....	30
2.4 Data analysis:.....	31
2.5 Results	32
2.5.1 Suvorexant reduces SRS-induced freezing behaviour.....	32
2.5.2 Suvorexant decreases SRS-induced anxiety-like behaviour during EPM.....	33
2.5.3 Suvorexant mitigates SRS-induced alteration on spontaneous locomotor activity	34
2.5.4 Suvorexant enhances SRS-induced alteration in plasma CORT level	35
2.5.5 Suvorexant reduces SRS-induced alteration on plasma and CSF orexin-A level	36
2.5.6 SRS-induced alteration on CRF-R1 expression in the AMY	38
2.5.7 Suvorexant attenuates SRS-induced alteration on serotonin levels in the AMY.	39
2.5.8 Correlation analysis of orexin-A with HPA axis marker and behaviour parameter	41

2.6 Discussion.....	43
2.7 Summary.....	48

CHAPTER 3: VALIDATION OF COGNITIVE INFLEXIBILITY IN STRESS RE-STRESS (SRS) MODEL OF PTSD

3.1 Introduction:	50
3.2 Hypothesis	53
3.3 Materials and Method	55
3.3.1 Animals.....	55
3.3.2 Drugs	55
3.3.3 Experimental design	55
3.3.3.1 FS as a stress re-stress	57
3.3.3.2 Collection of plasma, adrenal gland and brain tissue	57
3.3.4 Behavioural assessments	57
3.3.4.1 Assessment of attention set-shifting task.....	57
3.3.4.2 Cognition measurement in Y-maze test.....	60
3.3.4.3 Evaluation of anxiolytic activity on EPM	60
3.3.4.4 Evaluation of alteration in the extinction of fear behaviour	61
3.3.5 Biochemical and neurochemical analysis	61
3.3.5.1 Estimation of ACTH and CORT level in plasma	61
3.3.5.2 Acetylcholine and acetylcholinesterase assay	62
3.3.5.3 Monoamines and its metabolites measurement	62
3.3.6 Molecular analysis	62
3.3.6.1 Western blotting	62
3.4 Data analysis	64
3.5 Results:	65
3.5.1 Donepezil ameliorates the SRS-induced cognitive inflexibility in rats.....	65
3.5.2 Donepezil mitigates SRS-induced cognitive deficits in rats during Y-maze test	66

3.5.3 Donepezil reduces SRS-induced anxiety-like behaviour in rats	68
3.5.4 Donepezil reduces the contextual fear response in rats	69
3.5.5 Donepezil did not modulate SRS-induced HPA-axis dysfunction in rats	70
3.5.6 Donepezil did not modulate SRS-induced alteration on monoamines level in rats	72
3.5.7 Donepezil mitigates the SRS-induced alteration in ACh level and AChE activity in rats	73
3.5.8 Donepezil ameliorates the SRS-induced down-regulation of ChAT and α -7nAChR expression in rats.....	74
3.6 Discussion:.....	76
3.7 Summary:.....	80

CHAPTER 4: DETERMINATION OF THE EFFECT OF OREXIN ANTAGONIST ON MITOCHONDRIAL DYNAMICS IN RATS EXHIBITING PTSD-LIKE SYMPTOMS

4.1 Introduction	81
4.2 Hypothesis	84
4.3 Materials and methods.....	86
4.3.1 Animals.....	86
4.3.2 Experimental Design.....	86
4.3.3 Behavioural experiments	87
4.3.3.1 Assessment of contextual fear using FS	87
4.3.3.2 Assessment of anxiolytic activity in EPM.....	87
4.3.3.3 Assessment of attention set-shifting task.....	87
4.3.4 Biochemical estimations.....	88
4.3.4.1 Corticosterone estimation in plasma.....	88
4.3.4.2 Estimation of Plasma and CSF orexin-A level.....	89
4.3.5 Assessment of mitochondrial function and dynamics	89
4.3.5.1 Isolation of Mitochondria	89
4.3.5.2 Assessment of mitochondrial respiratory control ratio (RCR).....	89

4.3.5.3 Measurement of mitochondrial complex I, II, IV, and V activity.....	90
4.3.5.4 Measurement ROS (Reactive oxygen species).....	90
4.3.6 Neurotransmitter measurement.....	91
4.3.6.1 Measurement of serotonin (5-HT) and its metabolite in AMY.....	91
4.3.7 Molecular analysis	91
4.3.7.1 mRNA expression of dynamic proteins.....	91
4.3.7.2 Western blot expression of dynamic proteins.....	92
4.3.7.3 Immunofluorescence of dynamic proteins	92
4.3.7.4 Transmission Electron microscopy (TEM)	93
4.4 Data Analysis.....	93
4.5 Results	94
4.5.1 Suvorexant and rapamycin reduces the contextual fear response	94
4.5.2 Suvorexant and rapamycin reduces the anxiety-like behavior during EPM	94
4.5.3 Suvorexant and rapamycin ameliorates the SRS-induced cognitive inflexibility in rats	96
4.5.4 Suvorexant and rapamycin attenuated the plasma corticosterone level in SRS-exposed rats	97
4.5.5 Suvorexant and rapamycin reduced the SRS-induced increase in plasma and CSF orexin-A level	98
4.5.6 Suvorexant and rapamycin attenuates SRS-induced alterations in mitochondrial complex activity	99
4.5.7 Suvorexant and rapamycin enhances the mitochondrial bioenergetics and RCR.....	100
4.5.8 Suvorexant and rapamycin reduces the mTORC-1 activity in SRS-subjected rats	101
4.5.9 Suvorexant and rapamycin facilitates the mitochondrial dynamics in SRS-subjected rats	102
4.5.10 Suvorexant and rapamycin attenuates the mRNA expression of mitochondrial dynamics markers in SRS-subjected rats.....	105

4.5.11 Suvorexant and rapamycin ameliorates the intensity of Drp-1 in SRS-subjected rats	106
4.5.12 Suvorexant and rapamycin ameliorates the intensity of Mfn-2 in SRS-subjected rats	108
4.5.13 Suvorexant and rapamycin attenuates the SRS-induced mitophagy in rats ..	110
4.6 Discussion.....	111
4.7 Summary.....	116
CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	
5.1 Summary and conclusion.....	118
5.2 Important outcomes	121
REFERENCES	122
LIST OF PUBLICATION	134