

Contents

Summary

List of Abbreviations

Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1.1 Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension	2
1.2 Apelin Receptor Discovery, Signalling and Distribution	17
1.3 Endogenous Apelin Receptor Ligand Apelin	22
1.4 Novel Apelin Receptor Ligand Elabela/Toddler	26
1.5 Physiological Functions of Apelin Receptor Signalling	29
1.6 Synthetic Agonists, Biased Agonists and Antagonists.....	40
1.7 Hypotheses and Aims.....	50
Chapter 2 Materials and Methods.....	51
2.1 Materials	52
2.2 Human Tissue Collection.....	53
2.3 Cell-based Assays of Receptor Activation and Signalling	54

2.4 Immunohistochemistry.....	60
2.5 Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay	64
2.6 Reverse Transcription and Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction.....	68
2.7 Detection of Peptide Hydrolysis <i>in vitro</i>	71
2.8 Cardiovascular Hemodynamic Measurements.....	73
2.9 Monocrotaline-Induced Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension.....	77
2.10 Statistical Analyses.....	79
 Chapter 3 [Pyr¹]apelin-13₍₁₋₁₂₎ is a Biologically Active ACE2 Metabolite of [Pyr¹]apelin-13.....	 81
3.1 Introduction.....	82
3.2 Methods - Cell-based Assays and Signalling Bias Analysis.....	87
3.3 Results.....	89
3.4 Discussion	102
 Chapter 4 Characterisation of Elabela/Toddler in the Human Cardiovascular System.....	 113
4.1 Introduction.....	114
4.2 Methods – ELA in the MCT Rat Model.....	125
4.3 Results.....	127
4.4 Discussion	152
 Chapter 5 Prevention of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension by the Biased Apelin Receptor Agonist MM07	 163
5.1 Introduction.....	164
5.2 Methods – MM07 in the MCT Rat Model	169
5.3 Results.....	170
5.4 Discussion	178