

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY -----	i
SUMMARY IN GERMAN (ZUSAMMENFASSUNG) -----	iii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS -----	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS -----	1
1.0. INTRODUCTION -----	5
1.1. The Intestinal immune system -----	5
1.1.1 The intestinal epithelial cells (IECs) -----	7
1.2. The involvement of probiotics in gastrointestinal immunity -----	11
1.3. <i>Enterococcus faecium</i> -----	13
1.4. Salmonellosis -----	14
1.4.1. Pathogenesis of <i>Salmonella</i> -----	15
1.4.2. Host defence against salmonellosis -----	17
1.5. Transmissible gastroenteritis virus (TGEV) -----	18
1.6. A closer look at selected receptors, enzymes, cytokines and inhibitors -----	21
1.6.1. Receptors -----	21
1.6.2. Enzymes -----	23
1.6.3. Cytokines -----	25
1.6.4. Inhibitors -----	28
1.7. Objectives of the study -----	29
2.0. MATERIALS AND METHODS -----	30
2.1. Materials -----	30
2.1.1. Experimental animals -----	30
2.1.2. Microorganisms -----	30
2.1.2.1. Probiotic: <i>Enterococcus faecium</i> SF 68 (NCIMB 10415) ---	30
2.1.2.2. <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> DT 104 -----	30
2.1.2.3. Transmissible gastroenteritis virus (TGEV) -----	30
2.1.3. Reagents-----	31
2.1.4. Kits-----	33
2.1.5. Enzymes-----	33
2.1.6. Antibodies -----	33
2.1.7. Consumables -----	34
2.1.8. Instruments -----	35

2.1.9. Solutions -----	36
2.2. <i>In-vivo</i> evaluation of the effect of <i>E. faecium</i> SF68 against <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> DT 104 -----	38
2.2.1. Experimental design -----	38
2.2.2. Animal feed -----	39
2.2.3. Infection with <i>S. typhimurium</i> DT 104 -----	39
2.2.4. Collection of intestinal sections, spleen and blood-----	41
2.2.5. Isolation of lymphocytes from spleen, discrete and distal continuous PP-----	42
2.2.6. Isolation of intraepithelial lymphocytes from jejunum -----	43
2.2.7. Isolation of PBMC from Blood -----	43
2.2.8. Flow cytometry-----	44
2.2.8.1. Principle and application-----	44
2.2.8.2. Flow cytometric staining and phenotyping-----	46
2.2.9. Magnetic activated cell sorting (MACS)-----	47
2.2.10. Relative quantification of selected genes using Real-time PCR-----	49
2.2.10.1. Principles of real-time PCR-----	49
2.2.10.2. RNA isolation and cDNA synthesis -----	50
2.2.10.3. Primer design -----	51
2.2.10.4. Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) -----	52
2.2.10.5. Real-time PCR measurement and analysis -----	52
2.3. <i>In-vitro</i> Evaluation of the effect of <i>E. faecium</i> SF68 against TGEV -----	53
2.3.1. Isolation of cells -----	53
2.3.2. Growth and cell- size characterization of Type I and Type II cells--	54
2.3.2.1. Growth of Type I and Type II cells in Three-dimensional (3D) Culture -----	54
2.3.3. Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) -----	55
2.3.4. Flow cytometric and histochemical analysis of expression of cell markers -----	56
2.3.4.1. FACS Analysis -----	56
2.3.4.2. Confocal fluorescent microscopy -----	56
2.3.5. Analysis of Gene-Expression -----	57
2.3.5.1. Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction	

(RT-PCR) -----	57
2.3.6. Determination of the sensitivity of type I and type II cells to TGEV Infection -----	58
2.3.7. Evaluation of the effect of the probiotic against TGEV infection in Type II cells -----	59
2.3.7.1. Virus -----	59
2.3.7.2. TCID ₅₀ determination -----	59
2.3.7.3. Methylthiazol-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) Test -----	60
2.3.7.4. Virus titre (TCID50) determination -----	61
2.3.7.5. Determination of cytokine modulation by the probiotic Bacteria -----	61
2.3.7.5.1. Pre-treatment and harvest of cells after virus infection-----	61
2.3.7.5.2. Total RNA extraction and reverse transcription---	61
2.3.7.5.3. Real time PCR -----	62
3.0. RESULTS -----	63
3.1. <i>In-vivo</i> Evaluation of the effect of <i>E. faecium</i> SF68 against <i>S. typhimurium</i> DT 104 -----	63
3.1.1. Percentages of CD8 and CD4 positive lymphocytes in the probiotic and control groups -----	63
3.1.2. Percentages of CD4 positive lymphocytes in the probiotic and control Groups -----	64
3.1.3. Isolation of CD4+ and CD8+ lymphocytes by MACS -----	65
3.1.4. IL-1 gene expression in PBMC -----	67
3.1.5. IL-8 gene expression in PBMC -----	68
3.1.6. TLRs gene expression in PBMC-----	69
3.1.7. IL-1ra gene expression in PBMC -----	70
3.1.8. TGF- β and CD9 gene expressions in PBMC -----	71
3.1.9. IL-1 α gene expression in distal continuous PP -----	72
3.2. <i>In-vitro</i> Evaluation of the effect of <i>E. faecium</i> SF68 against TGEV -----	73
3.2.1. Difference of Type I and Type II cells in cell-size and growth rate ---	73
3.2.2. Overviews of type I and type II cells under the Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) -----	76

3.2.3. The ultra-structures of type I and type II cells -----	77
3.2.3.1. The Microvilli -----	77
3.2.3.2. Cell-to-cell contact -----	77
3.2.3.3. Organelles -----	79
3.2.4. Studies on the expression of selected genes in type I and type II cells-----	81
3.2.5. Flow cytometric and histochemical analysis of expression of cell markers -----	82
3.2.5.1. FACS analysis for CD14 and CD45 markers in type I and type II cells -----	82
3.2.5.2. FACS analysis for endothelial markers-----	83
3.2.5.3. Detection of an epithelial cell marker using Fluorescence Microscopy -----	84
3.2.6. Sensitivity of type I and type II cells to TGEV infection -----	85
3.2.7. Detection of TGEV in type II cells using transmission electron Microscopy -----	86
3.2.8. Antiviral effect of the probiotic pre-treatment on the survival of type II and ST cells after TGEV infection-----	87
3.2.9. Antiviral effect of the probiotic pre-treatment on virus titre from type II Cells after TGEV infection -----	88
3.2.10. Effects of the probiotic pre-treatment on the expression of cytokines in type II cells -----	89
4.0. DISCUSSION -----	91
4.1. <i>In-vivo</i> Evaluation of the effect of <i>E. faecium</i> SF68 against <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> DT 104 -----	91
4.2. <i>In-vitro</i> Evaluation of the effect of <i>E. faecium</i> SF68 against TGEV-----	94
5.0. CONCLUSION -----	101
6.0. REFERENCES -----	108
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -----	120
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS -----	122
CURRICULUM VITAE -----	124