

## BACKGROUND

- The term "disease" refers to conditions that impair normal tissue function.
- Cancer is a term used for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control and are able to invade other tissues.
- Cancer cells stimulate their own growth, resist inhibitory signals, resist their own apoptosis, stimulate the growth of blood vessels to supply nutrients to tumours, multiply forever and invade local tissue and spread to distant sites.



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## **TIMELINE OF CANCER**

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the world, particularly in developing countries



Egyptian Mummies Evidences of cancer found in mummies from -3000



**Egyptian Papyruses (-1600)** Treatment of certain cancers Breast cancer may be one of the oldest in Human cancer



Incas of Peru (-400) Evidences of cancer in pre-Columbian mummies Hippocrates (-300) Father of Medicine named ranges of tumors as carcinos





# **CONVENTIONAL CANCER THERAPY**

- Surgery
- Radiation therapy
- Chemotherapy
- Hormone therapy
- Immunotherapy







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## **BREAST CANCER**





- More than 100,000 South Africans are diagnosed with cancer every year
- Most commonly diagnosed cancer of women worldwide.
- Cancer in SA is a rising health concern with breast cancer being the leading cancer faced by SA women
- Risk factors: Gender, age, genetics, hormonal change, life style, diet, obesity, alcohol, smoking etc.



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## PHOTODYNAMIC CANCER THERAPY (PDT)

- PDT is an alternative therapy for the management of cancer
- Compared to conventional therapies, PDT is promising and efficient treatment because this is neoplastic selective
- PDT has been approved and recommended in the USA, Canada, Japan and most of the European Union countries
- A frequent problem encountered with PDT is the accessibility of tumour cells to laser light and the prolonged light sensitivity



# **OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROJECT**

After determining the cellular localization of  $ZnPcS_{mix}$  in MCF-7 breast cancer cells, optimal laser fluency and PS concentration:

 Identify the induced cell death pathway subsequent to PDT

 Evaluate the expression of genes involved in cell death following PDT





### CELL DEATH MECHANISM FLOW CYTOMETRY: Different populations

	Untreated Control	ZnPcS <sub>mix</sub> control	Actinomycin D	PDT
Normal	89±1.07	91±0.32	24±0.67***	21±0.89***
Early apoptotic	4±0.89	5±1.04	34±0.38**	37±1.06**
Necrotic	3±0.43	2±0.81	11±0.74	13±0.94
Late apoptotic	4±0.52	2±1.12	31±1.23**	29±0.76**

Compared to untreated MCF-7 cells, stat sig shown as \*\*p>0.1 and \*\*\* p>0.01

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# **CELL DEATH MECHANISM ELISA: Nuclear fragmentation**



Compared to untreated MCF-7 cells, stat sig shown as \*\*p>0.1

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### CELL DEATH MECHANISM RT-PCR Array: Gene expression

Cell death	Gene subunits		
Pro-Apoptot	ABL1, APAF1, BCL2L11, BIRC2 (c-IAP2), CASP1 (ICE), CASP2, CASP6,		
	CASP7, CASP9, CD40 (TNFRSF5), CD40LG (TNFSF5), CFLAR (CASPER),		
	DFFA, FASLG (TNFSF6), GADD45A, NOL3, TNFRSF10A (TRAIL-R).		
Anti-Apoptot	ic BCL2A1 (BfI-1/A1), BIRC3 (c-IAP1), IGF1R, MCL1, TNFRSF11B, TRAF2, XIAP.		
Apoptosis ar Autophagy	AKT1, BAX, BCL2, BCL2L1 (BCL-X), CASP3, FAS (TNFRSF6), TNF, TP53.		
Apoptosis ar Necrosis	ATP6V1G2, CYLD, SPATA2, SYCP2, TNFRSF1A		
Autophagy	APP, ATG12, ATG16L1, ATG3, ATG5, ATG7, BECN1, CTSB, CTSS, ESR1 (ERa), GAA, HTT, IFNG, IGF1, INS, IRGM, MAP1LC3A, MAPK8 (JNK1), NFKB1, PIK3C3 (VPS34), RPS6KB1, SNCA, SQSTM1, ULK1.		
Necrosis	BMF, C1orf159, CCDC103, COMMD4, DEFB1, DENND4A, DPYSL4, EIF5B, FOXI1, GALNT5, GRB2, HSPBAP1, JPH3, KCNIP1, MAG, OR10J3, PARP1 (ADPRT1), PARP2, PVR, RAB25, S100A7A, TMEM57, TXNL4B.		
BCL-2	Apoptotic gene and expressed in response to high level of apoptogenic proteins		
CASP-2	Protease and involved in Cytochrome C and apoptogenic proteins release from mitochondria		
DFFA	DNA fragmentation factor and activated by Cas-3		

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#### **PROPOSED CELL DEATH MECHANISMS**



# CONCLUSION

- ZnPcS<sub>mix</sub> mediated PDT was able to induce cell death; 0,5  $\mu$ M ZnPcS<sub>mix</sub> and 10 J/cm<sup>2</sup> was found to be combination with a decrease around 50% viability and the photosensitiser localised in lysosomes, mitochondria and around nuclei
- Most cells were apoptotic, nuclear condensation and fragmentation as well as three genes (BCL-2, CASP-2 and DFFA) involved in the apoptotic pathway were found to be up-regulated
- Future Work: Antibodies, Gold nanoparticles, ZnPcSmix







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