

Table of Contents

Glossary	xii
Chapter One: Background	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Red Blood Cells.....	6
1.3 RBCs Deformability	7
1.4 Capillary Site: the Business Site of the Circulatory System	8
1.5 Proteins: Physiochemical Properties of Amino Acid	8
1.6 Protein Structure.....	9
a. Primary structure	9
b. Secondary structure	9
c. Tertiary structure	10
d. Quaternary structure	10
1.7 Protein Folding.....	11
1.8 Protein Folding and Unfolding	12
1.9 Thermodynamic Description of Protein Folding	13
1.10 Description of the Dominant Forces in Protein Folding.....	14
a. The Hydrophobic Effect	14
b. Hydrogen Bonding.....	14
c. Configurational Entropy.....	15
d. Other Contributions	15
1.11 Protein Interaction.....	15
a. Salts and Solvents	15
b. Heat	15
1.12 The Stability of Proteins	16
1.13 Protein Hydrophobic core	17
1.14 Nitric Oxide: Chemistry of Nitric Oxide and Related Species	18
1.15 Properties of the NO molecule	19
1.16 NO reaction with oxygen	21
1.17 Nitric Oxide in Blood	22
1.18 Sinks for NO	23

1.19	Hemoglobin as an NO Sink.....	24
1.20	Hemoglobin Nitrosation.....	25
1.21	Interaction with Heme and Thiol	27
a.	Hemoglobin	27
1.22	NO-Heme Species.....	27
1.23	NO Releasers.....	27
a.	S-nitrosothiols.....	27
b.	Metal nitrosyl complexes	28
a.	NOR, NOC, and NONOate compounds	30
1.24	Adenosine-5'-triphosphate (ATP).....	31
1.25	Binding of ATP to proteins	32
1.26	Functions of ATP	33
1.27	Producing ATP.....	34
1.28	ATP, Hemoglobin and RBCs.....	35
1.29	Buffers with Different Ions.....	38
Chapter Two: Materials and Methods.....		41
2.1	Equipment Used for Experimental Preparation	41
a.	pH meter.....	41
b.	Biofuge	41
c.	Osmometer.....	41
d.	Buffers	41
2.2	QELS and CD sample preparation	42
a.	Sample treatment with spermine NONOate and adenosine 5'-triphosphate	43
b.	Nitric Oxide Donors Preparation	44
c.	Measurement of NO Concentration	45
d.	Adenosine-5-Triphosphate Preparation.....	48
2.3	Micropipette Aspiration: Sample Treatment	49
2.4	Micropipette Aspiration Setup.....	49
a.	Micropipette system and aspiration of RBCs.....	50
b.	RBC volume determination	51
2.5	QELS measurement.....	53
2.6	Circular dichroism measurement.....	60

2.7 Spectrophotometry.....	67
2.8 Data Processing.....	69
Chapter Three: Results	74
3.1 Dynamic Light Scattering.....	74
a. Spermine NONOate effects on Hb thermal aggregation.....	74
b. ATP effects on Hb thermal aggregation	76
3.2 Circular Dichroism	80
a. Effects of spermine NONOate and ATP on Tu of Hb samples in Na-buffer	80
b. Effects of spermine NONOate and ATP on Tu of Hb samples in K-buffer	83
c. Effect of sample composition on Hb's ellipticity measured at 25 °C	86
3.3 Spectrophotometry Results	86
3.4 Determining the hemoglobin concentration of a solution:	89
3.5 Micropipette Aspiration Results	90
a. Total volume of RBC	91
b. Volume of RBC head.....	92
c. Volume of RBC tail	93
d. Appearance of "Mushroom" RBCs:	95
Chapter Four: Discussion	96
4.1 Dynamic Light Scattering.....	97
a. Facilitation of protein aggregation by spermine NONOate.....	97
b. ATP and spermine NONOate: a synergy in inducing protein aggregation.....	98
c. Role of K ⁺ and Na ⁺ in protein's thermal stability.....	98
4.2 Circular Dichroism	99
4.3 Micropipette	100
a. NO and RBC	100
b. ATP and RBCs.....	101
c. Ions and Buffers	102
Chapter Five: Summary	104
Chapter Six: Zusammenfassung.....	108
Chapter Seven: References.....	113
Chapter Eight: Preliminary Publications	123
Chapter Nine: Lebenslauf	124