

Table of contents

Table of contents.....	2
List of abbreviations.....	4
Overview and summary of the thesis.....	7
1. General introduction.....	9
1.1 <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	9
1.1.1 Description.....	9
1.1.2 The genus streptococcus.....	10
1.1.3 Pneumococcal evolution.....	11
1.1.4 Competence.....	11
1.2 The pneumococcus as a pathogen.....	13
1.2.1 The human pathogen.....	13
1.2.1.1 Epidemiology.....	13
1.2.1.2 Vaccination.....	15
1.2.2 Pneumococcus in the human body.....	17
1.2.2.1 Nutritional environment.....	17
1.2.2.2 Ecology.....	17
1.2.2.3 Bacterial colonization of the human body.....	18
1.2.2.4 Nasopharyngeal colonization.....	19
1.2.2.5 Colonization of the upper respiratory tract.....	20
1.2.2.6 Pneumococcal adhesion to human epithelial cells.....	20
1.2.3 Pneumococcal virulence factors.....	22
1.2.3.1 Capsule.....	22
1.2.3.2 Pneumolysin.....	27
1.3 Innate immune responses to pneumococcus.....	29
1.3.1 Mucosal immunity.....	29
1.3.2 Recognition of pathogen.....	29
1.3.3 Cellular reactions.....	30
1.4 Pneumococcal colonization and viruses.....	33
1.4.1 Bacterial-viral interactions in the upper respiratory tract.....	33
1.4.2 Respiratory Syncytial Virus and bacterial co-infections.....	35

1.5 Biofilm formation.....	36
1.5.1 Introduction.....	36
1.5.2 Biofilm development.....	36
1.5.2.1 Exopolysaccharide matrix.....	38
1.5.2.2 Extracellular DNA in biofilms.....	39
1.5.3 Pneumococcal biofilms.....	40
1.5.3.1 Gene expression and mutations in biofilms.....	41
1.5.4 Biofilm formation in clinics.....	43
2. Aims of this thesis.....	45
3. The role of pneumococcal capsule and pneumolysin in the immune response in the respiratory tract.....	51
3.1 The pneumococcal polysaccharide capsule and pneumolysin differentially affect CXCL8 and IL-6 release from cells of the upper and lower respiratory tract.....	51
3.2 Immunological cells and immune regulation.....	71
4. Investigating host innate immune responses to Respiratory Syncytial Virus and <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>: co-stimulation in vitro model of human airway epithelial cells.....	92
5. Biofilm formation of <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> and commensal streptococci.....	119
5.1 Differences of initial biofilm formation among pneumococcal serotypes.....	119
5.2 Interactions in biofilm formation between commensal streptococcal strains and <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> serotypes.....	146
6. Discussion.....	167
7. References.....	174
8. Acknowledgements.....	184
9. Curriculum vitae.....	185
10. Appendix.....	188
11. Declaration of Originality.....	193