

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

$\eta\text{g}/\text{ML}$	nanogram per millilitre
$\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$	microgramgram per millilitre
ADAMTS	A Disintegrin And Metalloproteinase with Thrombospondin Motifs
AF	annulus fibrosus
BP	back pain
DMEM	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium
ECM	extracellular matrix
FBS	feotal bovine serum
GAG	glycosaminoglycans
IL	interleukin
IVD	intervertebral disc
IVDD	intervertebral disc degeneration
LP	leg pain

MMP	matrix metalloproteinases
NP	nucleus pulposus
PAGE	polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
RT-qPCR	real time quantitative polymerase chain reaction
SDS	sodium dodecyl sulfate
TIMP	tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases
TNF- $\alpha$	Tumor necrosis factor-alpha