

Acknowledgement

Gratitude is the fountain of the heart, yet I would like to express my indebtedness to those who helped me in carrying on this investigation.

No language can express my deep sense of admiration and gratitude to my honourable supervisor Dr. T.K. Chaudhuri, Reader, Cellular Immunology Lab, Department of Zoology, who extended the fullest possible help and unrequited encouragement and also inspired me to venture into the beautiful world of Immunogenetics. His selfless dedication, critical criticism, cordial relationship and parental guidance always kept me as an energetic and hardworking scholar.

I am sincerely grateful to Prof. S.K. Das, Head, Department of Psychiatry, North Bengal Medical College, whose innovative and unprejudiced attitude has given me an insight into the field of biological psychiatry. He aroused my interest and took much pain to implant the art of Psychiatry in my mind. It is my benign privilege to have him as a mentor.

My profound gratitude is to Dr. Min Bahadur, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, University of North Bengal for teaching me the techniques of tissue culture and chromosomal analysis. His unfailing co-operation, friendly relationship and sound knowledge kept myself busy round the clock with the investigation.

I am immensely indebted to Dr. Nirmal K. Bera, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, North Bengal Medical College, who satiated inquisitive penchant for Psychiatric Illnesses very patiently, screened the patients and also stimulated me in course of my study. Indeed, his innocuous guidance is of immense value to me. I also deeply acknowledge Dr. S.C. Roy, Consultant Psychiatrist, for his keen interest on work and also for screening of the patients.

It is my pleasure to express my regards for Prof. N.K. Mehra, Head, Department of Transplant Immunology & Immunogenetics, AIIMS, New Delhi for his benign kindness, constructive criticism on my works and for generous gift of couple of reagents including Antisera.

I owe a great sense of gratefulness to Mr. C.R. Nayak, Head, Computer Centre, NBU, who taught me the art of statistical analysis and has always been with fatherly love and affection.

I am indebted to Prof. A.K. Chakravarty, Prof. B. C. Pal, Prof. D.C. Deb, Prof. A. Mukherjee, Dr. J. Pal and Dr. S. Barat of Department of Zoology for their unremitting support and inspiration. Dr. J. Pal is duly acknowledged for rendering all the photographic facilities of cytological part. Dr. Ranadhir Chakraborty, Head, Department of Biotechnology, NBU deserves special acknowledgement because he is the man who always motivated and guided me to the right direction.

Lots of thanks to Dr. Sreejata Desarkar, Ms. Pravati Ghosh, Mr. Bichitra Birjya Mandal and Mr. Bikash Mitra, my colleagues of the Cellular Immunology Laboratory for extending their helping hands and Mr. Bhaskar Bhadra, Ms. Sreeparna Mukherjee research scholars of Microbiology Laboratory, Mr. Sanjeev Srivastava, SGPGI, Lucknow for their endeavors to keep me cheerful while working. Thanks are due to my colleagues in the department as well as in the Research Scholars Hostel for boosting me up.

My sincere gratitude goes to the participating controls, patients and their family members, who helped me go with the investigation honestly.

I owe much to my parents, brothers and sisters for their magnanimous support and encouragement throughout my doctoral study. I want to thank my brother Mr. Ajit Debnath for linguistic revision of the manuscript.

I am grateful for the financial support received from Lady Tata Memorial Trust, Mumbai, Labonya Prova Bose Trust, Kolkata and Department of Science & Technology (DST), New Delhi.

I appreciate everybody's affection and contribution.

Monojit Debnath

MONOJIT DEBNATH

...16th day of March, 2005