Acknowledgement

At the moment of bidding adieu, though calendar may show elapse of a long time, it's hard to believe that my stay at CCMB has been more than a blink of an eye. Mere words are not sufficient to portray the feelings and experiences gained by me during brief stay here. I am blessed to be here and can never express the inspiring force of Him that made me accomplished enough to achieve the goals with ease. I thank the omnipresent Almighty for imparting strength, perseverance and sagacity to go through the learning-phases in my life.

It is also the opportune moment to acknowledge the care, guidance and attention of my supervisor Dr. Veena K. Parnaiik, who has made this journey comfortable by being a supportive mentor, a patient listener, a pragmatic critic and an excellent teacher. The motivations, suggestions, refinements, appreciations and everything that she has been a source will always stay in my memory. The freedom she had given to me in designing and executing the experiments have given me a great deal of confidence to face new challenges everytime.

Moreover, I would like to acknowledge Dr. Lalji Singh and Dr. Ch. Mohan Rao, the past and present directors for the opportunities and excellent infrastructural facilities provided at CCMB. Also the financial support by CSIR (JRF/SRF) during the course of PhD had been very helpful.

The helping hand lend by Nandini Rangraj for making this work colorful through precise microscopic images deserves to be duly credited and acknowledged. I cannot forget the training imparted by Mralkrishna sir, which made me realize what the term “meticulous” stands for. He has been an excellent teacher and colleague to learn the basics of experimentation. Furthermore, the shortcuts of molecular biology from Thanu sir made the job easier. I will always cherish the moments when I got stuck at seemingly small steps and was bailed out by Ch. Sudhakar sir.

I am also grateful to Dr. Ghanshyam Swarup for his valuable inputs. Moreover, the suggestions from members of cell biology group and Rajeshwari ma’am were important in assessing the progress of the work. I also acknowledge Fine biochemical staff, especially Kishore Joshi for providing with the reagents needed by me during the course of this study. Assistance provided by instrumentation staff, tissue culture staff and Vidyasagar was very important to carry the work smoothly.

I owe a special word of thanks to Poonam, who stood with me at all times and helped me realize what a true friend is. No lesser feelings exists for Dr. Nagabhushana A., Vipul, Trina and Saroj for their affection and help. The ‘extended family’ of juniors comprising Satya, Suraj, Sneha, Ishan, Priya and Richa, whose regular meetings and parties at ‘Vrindavan’ made the stay even more memorable.
at the fag end of my PhD. I would also like to thank my batchmates- Poornima, Saurabh, Anoop, Madhavi, Vijay, Abhishek, Pushpendra, Aninda, Vinesh, Arun and Priyanka for the joyous moments at the time of course-work and for their timely help with reagents and ideas. The ‘Panthagar group’ of Amitanand sir, Brajesh sir, Pratibha ma’am, Shukla sir, KT sir, Anoop was fun to be with. This stay would have been much difficult without their company.

I also acknowledge assistance provided by Sumit, Arun and Manvendra for sequencing of samples, Rajeev and Bhanu for protein overexpression studies, Nitin Tupperwar for real-time PCR, G. Shrinivas for FACS, and Praveen Singh for designing of shRNAs. A special word of gratitude is due for Riaz sir and my Grand-parents here who have been supportive throughout the highs and lows faced by me. The credit is also due to all my East-wing 1st floor-mates for providing a cooperative, cheerful and lively atmosphere to carry out the work. I owe a deep sense of gratitude to my ex-labmates: Gurudatta, Indumathi, Maitreya, Manju, KT sir for helping me realize the path ahead. I would always miss the calm influence of KT sir. Also, I would thank my present lab-mates- Ritika, Poonam, Kirti, Fathima, Ajay and Richa for helping me in their own ways.

Furthermore, I thank Dr. R. Nagaraj for the financial assistance at the end of fellowship. The kind cooperation of Mohan Kumar in typing this voluminous document is worth mentioning.

At this moment I would also like to fondly remember my parents and my little brother Montoo, who have been my greatest strength at every single instance of my life. I would have never reached up to this position without their wishes. I dedicate all my success and achievements to them, since they have been the people in the backdrop to toil hard and aspire relentlessly for my successes.

Thank you all

Pankaj Chaturvedi