Gratitude

Dr. Roy, my thesis supervisor, was the person because of whom this thesis was actually possible. He will always be fondly remembered for his unfailing support, infectious scientific enthusiasm and professionalism. Sir, I am a better human today because of you and thank you very much for everything that you taught me.

I thank Dr S K Basu, Director, NII, for ensuring that the researcher in me never found anything wanting. I also thank my Doctoral Committee members, Drs Dinakar Sahal, R A Vishwakarma, Debasis Mohanty and Rajesh Gokhale for helpful insights as the work progressed. The assistance from NII administrative and support staff is also gratefully acknowledged. This work would not have been possible without cooperation from Dr Archana Patel and Prof V S Dani, both of Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur, who kindly arranged for blood samples from sickle cell anemia patients and Dr NK Lohia of University of Rajasthan, who provided Hanuman Langur blood samples whenever there was a requirement.

My lab was the best part of my stay here. Kumaran- the senior most, was an inspiring person in more ways than one. Most of all, I would love to learn to devour papers at the frequency with which he managed to! Shiv has been my mentor and a great friend. His extremely meticulous (and at times 'slightly' irritating) way of explaining each and every tiny detail has greatly helped me appreciate the necessity for understanding the nuances of anything and everything in life. He has been amazingly patient with me and I'll miss that a lot! Bala has been one constant "adorable" pain and it has really kept my life going out here...especially during times when I hit a low. Bala...U are one of a very "special kind" and I am sure not to find anyone else like U...! Will miss not having U around 2 BUG ME! Lavanya took a while to actually open up and get close but once that happened the lab sure became a really lively and NOISY
Gratitude

place...? Whom will I be mean to, Lavanya...???? I sure am going to miss having your HUGE presence in my life. Shongo, thanks for all the formatting U helped me with – thesis and otherwise! Dev, thank you for all the help that you rendered during your stay here. We all miss U.

A special thank you to Ayub for always being there and lending a patient ear.

Life-after-work was total fun thanks to Konds, Shekhar, Vanitha, Archu, Hems, Sung and Rads. I will cherish the good times we spent together. I have to specially thank Archu and Vanitha for being unconditionally supportive, loving and caring. I would not have made it without the chais and coffees. Parshu, Ali, Vips, Omita, Pats – will miss U guys.

Lakshmi and Esh, thanks for always being there for me. I will miss you both big time! A special thanks to all my pals who were in touch with me online all these years. My evenings would have been boring without your “continuous cyber presence”. U folks are responsible for making chat and sms an indelible part of my life.

Amma, Appa and Kitchu – this is for U!

R. Sudha
28/6/2002