ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

These last few years as a Ph.D. student in Dept. of Biochemistry & Biophysics, University of Kalyani were quite eventful and left me many reasons to be thankful for. First of all, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude and respect to my supervisor, Dr. Utpal Ghosh for giving me the opportunity to work with him and also showing me the track to start my research career in the most emerging field of research in radiation biology. His guidance and scientific knowledge helped me in many ways throughout this tenure. We spent many memorable moments not only in Kalyani, but also in IUAC, New Delhi during beam time. I can remember that ‘walking’ with discussion in several aspects in IUAC campus for almost 2 h after dinner! Hope we will continue our endeavours in future also. Thank you Sir for everything!

Now, I would like to thank Dr. Asitikantha Sarma, Radiation Biologist, IUAC, New Delhi for giving his valuable input in high LET radiation related works. With him, I learned a lot regarding the basics of high LET radiation. He was always helpful to me.

I specially want to express my heartfelt respect to Prof. Nitai P. Bhattacharyya, SINP, Kolkata for his blessings on me! I shared few moments discussing with him regarding our works. Thank you Sir, and wish you for a healthy & happy life ahead!

I will not forget the support from Dr. Amit Roy, Ex. Director of IUAC, New Delhi to approve my TA & DA extension during the work in IUAC. I also want to extend my thankfulness to Dr. Sandeep Chopra, Convenor-AUC for his full support regarding the beam time scheduling, accommodation and also his concern about my work. I convey my warm gratitude to Dr. Geetanjali Pujari for her immense help and support during the tenure in IUAC. I would also thank those scientists/technical persons/operators involved during the beam time whose sincere contributions make this day comes true!

Being a first scholar in our lab, I started my research career like sprouting in a desert! This long time has taught me some valuable lessons which were a mixture of good & bad! I got some seniors from different labs, who actually helped me to jump into the ‘log phase’ from the ‘lag phase’ of my initial training! I want to mention those names- Manisha Di, Mithun Da, Kamalika Di, Jayeeta Di, Moumita Di, Arunava Da (all completed Ph.D. from SINP, Kolkata). Thanks to all of you! A special thank goes to Utpal Da for his help during cell culture medium preparation in SINP, Kolkata.
Then, I got my first junior in lab as Ratan. We have walked together since last four and half years. He is a nice guy with sound knowledge in various fields. His aptitudes in solving various instrumental/technical problems during daily research work attract me more and I have learnt a lot from him. He helped me a couple of time in IUAC during the beam time also. In late 2013, Debapriya joined us as ‘INSPIRE’ fellow who is more familiar in our dept. as ‘Miss Chun-moon Sen’! She likes ‘acting’ and ‘medicinal plants’! This year our battalion becomes more powerful to get three buddies. At the very first day, Victor entered the lab like a ‘pirate’ with long hair but after few months he reminded me the character of ‘Lucky’ (or ‘Lakshman Prasad Sharma’) in the Bollywood movie ‘Main Hoon Na’ by sacrificing his long hair! He has a good knowledge in Bioinformatics and I enrich myself during the conversation with him! Sourav is a very helpful chap with presence of humours. He has an extra quality of doing mimicry. We, all enjoy it totally! Cheers Sourav! And last but not the least, Priyanka, a ‘real-time’ lady completes our small family. She used to stay quiet but sometimes becomes so ‘hungry’ that collects the all votes from others to remind my pending treat! I just want to thank all of you for your help, cooperation and moreover for spending such splendid time together during my journey!

During beam time in IUAC, New Delhi, Angshuman (from WBUT, Kolkata), Harminder (from IUAC, New Delhi), Dipesh Da, Krishnendu & Anirban (from Rajabazar Science College, Kolkata) helped me a lot! I am really thankful to you! I spent some memorable moments with Mriganka Da, Tathagata, Akashrup, Siddharth & Avinash in IUAC, New Delhi. Thank you guys for making my visit in IUAC more colourful!

Apart from these, there are few persons who helped me to build my interest in scientific research in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology during my B.Sc. and M.Sc. - Suvankar Da (completed Ph.D. from IIT-KGP), Swarup Da and Sujit Da (both completed Ph.D. from Bose Institute). They are like my elder brothers! Thank you dada!

I was really grateful to Prof. Dibeyndu N. Sengupta, Bose Institute, Kolkata for giving me the chance of doing summer project during M.Sc. under his supervision. From this platform, I actually started dreaming to build my career in the field of Cellular & Molecular Biology.

I want to extend my sincere respect and gratitude to those teachers from my school level to master’s level for teaching me nicely. And, it is their credit what I am today! Specially, I would like to mention Dr. Tapas K. Bandhopadyay (my M.Sc. teacher), Head of the Dept. of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Kalyani for informing me the news of the vacancy for a project fellow under Dr. Utpal Ghosh, my mentor. Thank you very much, Sir!
And last, but certainly not least...
To my family and friends, I can never express my gratitude you enough: for all your support, now and always.

The work has partially funded by the following grants:

- IUAC/XIII.7/UFUP-4135/3465, from Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), New Delhi, India.
- 45/19/2010-BMS/CMB, from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, India.
- SR/SO/BB-0017/2010, from Department of Science & Technology (DST), New Delhi, India.
- BT/PR4809/BRB/10/1028/2012, from Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi, India.

During this Ph.D. tenure, fellowships were taken from:

- Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) as Junior Research Fellowship (JRF).
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as Senior Research Fellowship (SRF).