

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity with immense pleasure to say heartfelt thanks to all the people who have helped me in their own ways and inspired me through the course of my journey towards producing this thesis. It gives me great delight to convey my gratitude to all of them in my humble acknowledgement.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my research supervisors Dr. Bhaskar Saha and Prof. Somenath Roy for their continuous support, advice and guidance throughout my tenure.

Moreover, I convey my sincere thanks to Dr. Bhaskar Saha for sharing scientific ideas, ways to address a problem and shaping me scientifically. Also, I thank him for giving the freedom to work independently, keeping faith in my abilities and unflinching encouragement during the tenure.

I am grateful to Dr. Manoj Kumar Bhat – Director, National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Dr. Gopal C. Kundu, Ex-Director-in-charge, NCCS and Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, Ex-Director, NCCS for providing me with an opportunity to perform my doctoral research at this premier institute and utilize the core facilities at NCCS.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. A.C. Mishra, Dr. Debashis Mitra and Dr. Manoj K. Bhat (Ex-Academic Deans), Dr. Nibedita Lenka and Dr. Prakash Deshpande for being members of my fellowship evaluation committee. Also, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Ananta Ghosh for being the external evaluator of Ph.D registration committee.

I am grateful to Department of Science and Technology, GoI for awarding the INSPIRE fellowship during my doctoral research work tenure.

I am thankful to Dr. B. Ramanamurthy, Scientist-in-charge, Experimental animal facility, NCCS for his constant support in utilizing the facilities. Heartfelt thanks to Dr. R.M. Bankar, Mr. M.L. Sheikh, Mr. Thorat, Mrs. Vaishali, Mr. Shelke, and all the staff of animal house for their support and help. I am especially thankful to Mr. M.L. Sheikh and Mr. A.L. Inamdar for providing me with experimental mice, whenever required.

I am grateful to all the people in the core facilities of NCCS viz. FACS facility, Library, Cell Repository, Media section, Computer section, Washing section, Academic cell, Director's office, Electric substation, Stores and Purchase, Administration, Instrumentation and maintenance. I am really thankful to Mr. S.I. Sindgi for this unconditional help in maintenance of laboratory instruments and troubleshooting advice regarding use of instruments. I would also like to thank Mr. Pathare, Mr. Revan and Ms. Priya from Instrumentation section for their timely help. I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Bhimashankar for providing the cell culture media as and when required. I would like to thank Mr. Atul, Mr. Dyaneshwar, Mr. Amit, Mrs. Ashwini, Ms. Hemangini from FACS facility for their guidance in acquiring and analyzing flow cytometry samples.

I would like to thank Mrs. Mosami Gosavi, Ms. Megha, Mrs. Bhagyashree, Mrs. Kavita, Mrs. Namjoshi for their help in academic, fellowship and travel grant work. I am thankful to Mr. Rameshwar Nema and Mr. K. Behera for their help in thesis and paper submission work.

I am grateful to Dr. Debashis Mitra, Dr. V. Sheshadri, Dr. M.V.K. Sastry, and their lab members for allowing me to use their instruments as and when required.

I would like to thank Aditya for teaching various techniques used in immunological studies, mentoring and helping me during experimental work. I would like to thank Ashok

for helping me in various capacities and bearing with me as a roommate. I would like to thank Sathish for helping during crucial experiments.

I would like to thank Sayoni for being there as a pillar of strength, motivation and rescuing me from various dilemmas.

I am pleased to thank my labmates Sunil, Yashvant, Himanshu, Surya, Mukesh, Ankita, Neelam, Arathi, Swathi, Sagar, Debasri, Soumya, Prashant, Hima, Akshada for their help and support.

I would also like to thank my friends from NCCS; Arpan, Bhawna, Ramaraju, Ramakrishna, Pawan, Rutuja, Divya, Kruthika, Kailash, Muneesh, Ananth, Pratibha, Apoorva for their help and support during work and sharing sweet memories, especially during mess hours.

Last, but not the least, I would like to convey my deepest gratitude to my parents and grandparents for their unconditional love, support and freedom throughout my career.

Shubhranshu Zutshi