

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My research journey with FXTAS and mito-miRNAs has been long, exciting and best learning experience, and for this I first want to heartily praise and thank God for his showers of blessings throughout my research work and making it most successful.

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my research supervisor, Prof. Rajesh Singh for giving me the opportunity to do research and providing excellent guidance throughout this research. His enthusiasm, dynamism, vision, sincerity and motivation have kept me focused and deeply inspired. He has taught me the methodology to carry out the research and to present the research works as clearly as possible. It was a great privilege and honor to work and study under his guidance. I am extremely grateful for what he has offered me.

I am extremely grateful to my parents for their love, prayers, caring and sacrifices for educating and preparing me for my future. I am very much thankful to Vrushali (my wife to be) for her love, understanding, prayers and continuing support to complete this research work. I also express my thanks to my brother, sister in law and my entire family for their support and valuable prayers. My Special thanks goes to my senior lab member Dr. Lakshmi, who always helped me and inspired me during my research journey. She has been always my source of motivation.

The contribution of my first mentor, Dr. Senthil Natesan at Genome Research Center was indispensable. He really helped in shaping my motives, interest and courage to head through this journey. I also thankful to Dr. Tushar Patel who was my dissertation guide during my masters. I acknowledge the warm welcoming support, comfortable stay and zealous inspirations of Dr. Nicolas C Berguerand and Dr. Bozena kaminska in their respective labs. I also thank to Dr. Flora Tassone for helping with the patient study and support in writing grants.

I also sincerely acknowledge the support and guidance of senior Professors, Prof. Sarita Gupta, Prof. G Naresh Kumar and Prof. Rasheedunnisa Begum for sharing their scientific experiences and valuable comments whenever asked. I would like to thank Prof C. Ratna Prabha (Head), Prof. Sashikant Acharya, Dr. Jayshree Phoenerkar, Dr. Pushpa Robin, Dr. Laxmi Nampoorthi, Dr. Ravi Vijayvargia, who guided me and helped in all possible ways.

I would like to thank my lab members Dr. Paresh, Dr. Dhanendra, Dr. Khyati, Dr. Kritarth, Dr. Milton, Anjali, Minal, Fatema, Anubhav, Jyoti, Shatakshi and Shani for their support during my research work. The lab life has been and awesome journey with all of them with lots of lab parties, long and enthusiastic discussions and stress releasing trips. I am extending my thanks to my dissertation students Darshan, Hitarthi, Piyush and Preet who have assisted me in most of my PhD work. Specifically, Darshan and Piyush have always remained there for me whenever its required. I also thank to my

research colleagues cum friends from other labs including Dr, Abhay, Dr. Komal, Dr. Mitul, Dr. Gaurav, Dr. Shahnawaz, Arpi di, Sejal, Aakash, Tanvi, Roma, Nirali, Syantani, Gurpreet, Jayvadan, Sandeep; Jinal, Raju and Dhruvi,

The Ph.D. journey would have been boring without my best buddies. I acknowledge the supports, inspiration and fun offered from my school buddies Deepen, Panchal, Choksi, Bhagat, Kaushal, Jigar, Baba, Shaishav, Pooja, Jalpa and Sapan. I also want to thank my forever gang Lincy, Sarina, Jinu, Vani, Nil, Dhaval for all leisure time we had and will have. A big thank to all my M.Sc. classmates Chetan, Vishal, Dhaval, Abhijit, Ajinkya for all the motivations and help.

I also thank to all the Non-teaching staff of Biochemistry Department Akshita Mam, Rameshbhai Nare, Shaileshbhai, Manishbhai, Sandipbhai, Anilbhai, Kiranbhai, Balwantbhai for all kinds of help and for providing available facilities whenever I needed in the Department. I thank to Subhash bhai, Rajesh Bhai, Milind dada, Chiragbhai, Mukesh Bhai, Mayur Bhai, Neeta Madam for their help and friendly support at university protocols. I extend my thanks to DBT-ILSPARE instrument facility at Dr. Vikram Sarabhai Institute of Cell and Molecular Biology. My experiments would not have been completed without it.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the funding agencies DST and ICMR for providing Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) respectively, without which my research work would not have been possible. I also want to thank DBT and DST for providing international travel awards.

Finally, my thanks go to all the people who have helped me to complete my Ph.D. study and made it an awesome experience for me.

- Dhruv Gohel