

## LIST OF FIGURES

Sr. No.	Title	Page no.
<b>CHAPTER I</b>		
Figure 1.1	Vitiligo classification	2
Figure 1.2	Cross section of human skin	4
Figure 1.3	The epidermal melanin unit	8
Figure 1.4	The melanosome formation and maturation during the melanin production by a melanocyte	9
Figure 1.5	Melanin synthesis	10
Figure 1.6	An overview of immune mediated destruction of melanocytes in vitiligo	14
Figure 1.7	Functional aspects of ER stress induced UPR	17
Figure 1.8	An overview of ATF6, PERK and IRE1 mediated UPR signalling	18
<b>CHAPTER II</b>		
Figure 2.1	Representative images of suction device and suction induced blisters.	52
Figure 2.2	PCR-RFLP analysis of <i>PSMB8</i> rs2071464 polymorphism on 3.5% agarose gel	54
Figure 2.3	ARMS-PCR analysis of <i>TAP1</i> rs1135216 polymorphism on 3.5% agarose gel	55
Figure 2.4	Relative gene expression of <i>PSMB8</i> in vitiligo patients and controls	59
Figure 2.5	Analysis of <i>PSMB8</i> protein expression	60
Figure 2.6	Relative gene expression of <i>TAP1</i> in patients and controls	61
Figure 2.7	PCR-RFLP analysis of <i>MTHFR</i> rs1801133 polymorphism on 3.5 % agarose gel electrophoresis	63
Figure 2.8	ARMS-PCR analysis of <i>MTHFR</i> rs1801131 polymorphism on 3.5% agarose gel electrophoresis	64

Figure 2.9	Structure-based in silico analysis of MTHFR variants	68
Figure 2.10	PCR-RFLP analysis of <i>XBPI</i> rs2269577 polymorphism on 3.5 % agarose gel electrophoresis	69
Figure 2.11	Relative gene expression analysis of <i>uXBPI</i> and <i>sXBPI</i> in PBMCs of vitiligo patients and controls	72
Figure 2.12	Analysis of <i>uXBPI</i> and <i>sXBPI</i> transcript levels in skin samples	74
Figure 2.13	PCR-RFLP analysis of <i>IL17A</i> rs2275913 polymorphism on 3.5 % agarose gel electrophoresis	75
Figure 2.14	PCR-RFLP analysis of <i>IL17A</i> rs8193036 polymorphism on 3.5 % agarose gel electrophoresis	75
Figure 2.15	Relative gene expression of <i>IL17A</i> in PBMCs of vitiligo patients and controls	79
Figure 2.16	Estimation of IL-17A levels in SBF samples of patients	80
Figure 2.17	PCR-RFLP analysis of TYR rs1042602 polymorphism on 3.5 % agarose gel electrophoresis	81
Figure 2.18	PCR-RFLP analysis of TYR rs1126809 polymorphism on 3.5 % agarose gel electrophoresis	81
Figure 2.19	Estimation of plasma anti-tyrosinase (TYR) antibody levels in vitiligo patients	85
<b>CHAPTER III</b>		
Figure 3.1	Estimation of plasma homocysteine levels in vitiligo patients	111
Figure 3.2	Estimation of plasma vitamin B <sub>12</sub> levels in vitiligo patients	113
Figure 3.3	Estimation of homocysteine levels in suction induced blister fluid (SBF) samples of patients with active generalized vitiligo	114
Figure 3.4	A possible mechanism for the role of homocysteine in melanocyte destruction in vitiligo	117

<b>CHAPTER IV</b>		
Figure 4.1	The unfolded protein response signalling pathways	125
Figure 4.2	Effect of Hcy on NHM viability	131
Figure 4.3	Determination of mode of cell death by Annexin-V/PI dual staining assay	132
Figure 4.4	Analysis of ROS levels by DCFDA assay	132
Figure 4.5	Gene expression analysis of UPR target genes	133
Figure 4.6	Activation of UPR signalling at protein levels by western blot analysis	134
Figure 4.7	Relative gene expression analysis of <i>IL6</i> , <i>TNFA</i> , <i>IFNG</i> , and <i>IL10</i>	135
Figure 4.8	Monitoring the effect of Hcy on melanogenesis in NHM	135
Figure 4.9	Relative gene expression analysis of <i>PSMB8</i> , <i>TAP1</i> , <i>HSP70</i> , and <i>MTHFR</i>	136
<b>CONCLUSION</b>		
Figure 5.1	Summary	150