

Preface

Prof. T. M. Jacob has been among the early workers who initiated nucleic acid research at the Indian Institute of Science. He joined the Institute in late 1966 after a very successful post-doctoral stint at Professor Har Gobind Khorana's laboratory at Madison where he made some outstanding contributions to the chemical synthesis of oligonucleotides and towards deciphering the genetic code. Prof. Jacob has been a pioneer in research in the immunochemistry of nucleic acids. During the last two decades he has made many significant contributions in this area. His group has worked on antibodies to nucleic acids and used them as models in studies on protein-nucleic acid interactions, inhibitors of nucleic acid function, probes for nucleic acid structure and tools for the isolation and immunoassay of specific nucleic acids or nucleic acid constituents.

Prof. Jacob retired from active service at the Institute on 31st July, 1987. To honour him on his retirement, the Department of Biochemistry at the Institute organised an International Symposium on the Immunochemistry, Structure and Function of Nucleic Acids on July 28-30, 1987. A few papers selected from among those presented at the Symposium are published here. We are indeed most grateful to Prof. Jacob for kindly agreeing to guest edit this issue.

Editor