

## FOREWORD

PRATIM CHATTOPADHYAY



*President, Serum Thalassemia Prevention Federation*

Thalassemia is an unfortunate deadly genetic disease, which has no cure but it can prevent. Thalassemia is a major health problem placing an immeasurable emotional, psychological and economic burden on millions of people around the world. The treatment of Thalassemia in fact is a very costly and painful process. Particularly in the poor countries like us, knowledge of the disease remains sparse and treatment is an unaffordable luxury.

It is in this context role of prevention is the best understood.

This is the statistics have seen that over past 25 years a dramatic fall in the number of effected births at European countries only because of prevention programmes based on health education, wide spread screening and genetic counseling. There are a number of reasons why it is important to develop prevention programs for B thalassemia.

- The high frequency of the conditions in some populations.
- The expense and difficulty of providing optimum treatment for patients, which creates a burden to patients families and national health services.

The fight against this disease always requires dedication — both in terms of time and resource. People should be educated regarding thalassemia by its prevention by pre-marital or preconceptual screening. Thalassemia parents should be repeatedly encouraged and motivated to convince their extended family members to get themselves screened for thalassemia status which is also helpful in prevention and control of thalassemia. And this book provides a through overview of the issues involved in prevention. As such it represent a major step towards a fundamental goal of the Serum Thalassemia Prevention Federation.

As a president of Serum Thalassemia Prevention Federation I welcome this informative and wide-ranging book as a vital contribution to the work of us, and an invaluable resource for all those who are working in this field. On behalf of the board of Serum Thalassemia Prevention Federation, I would also like to express our most sincere appreciation for the hard work and devotion the authors have shown in compiling this publication. This book is the product of long time effort which reflecting their sincerity and commitment.