

Thank you Marc for the warm and generous citation, and thanks to the Clarke Medal award committee and those who wrote the nomination and supporting letters for me for their time and consideration. With this recognition and with a glance at the list of past recipients, I am profoundly honored and almost overwhelmed.

With limited time, it is not possible for me to do more than touch on a few defining moments and acknowledge a few fellow travelers.

Growing up in Kolkata, perhaps the most important decision I made is to get my bachelors and masters degree in geology from Jadavpur University in Kolkata, India. The classes I took on thermodynamics, igneous, and metamorphic phase equilibria from outstanding teachers in the likes of Somnath Dasgupta, Pulak Sengupta, Ashok Mukherjee, and Prasanta Bhattacharya sowed the first seed of curiosity and excitement of geoscience research. It is also at this time when I first met Sash Hier-Majumder and Mainak Mookherjee whose career in geoscience research continues to be inspirational. The tutelage of Somnath Dasgupta especially was instrumental for me in developing a passion for igneous geochemistry and making me west-bound for my PhD.

As they say that you need to be at the right place at the right time. In 2001, I could not have done better but to choose to go to University of Minnesota in the US to get my PhD with Marc Hirschmann. I learned a tremendous amount from Marc, and also from many others at Minnesota; among these, Jim Stout, David Kohlstedt, Maik Pertermann, Tony Withers, Cyril Aubaud, Jen Engstrom deserve special mention. In the quest of figuring out the direction of my thesis research, one day at his office, Marc mentioned “someone needs to re-look at carbonated mantle melting”. I took the cue and never looked back. By the time I figured out how to keep carbon dioxide in my experiments and polish my charges, high pressure experiments felt like the obvious thing to do for living. It was especially helpful to have the freedom to independently design various subprojects and have the experience to guide undergraduate students including Nikki Dellas, Kate Stalker, and Neil Smith. Marc, again I thank you for such opportunities.

However, honing of my experimental skills would have remained incomplete if I had not chosen to go to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University for my post-doc. At Lamont, working with Dave Walker gave me the opportunity to learn how the mind of a true experimentalist works. Access to Dave’s lab and his endless experimental recipe, along with the intellectual environment in the presence of John Longhi, Peter Kelemen, Marc Spiegelman, Al Hoffmann, Terry Plank, and Conny Class made my short stay there rewarding.

It has been a real privilege to spend the past three years at Rice University. Rice gave me the opportunity to spread my wings, establish my own experimental lab and research program from ground zero. I could not have asked for more than to have the opportunity to have end-less discussions with Cin-Ty Lee and to interact with Luffi, Hoink, Lenardic, Gonnermann, and visiting professors Francis Albarede, Janne Blichert-Toft, and Greg Hirth. Most importantly, I have been stimulated by an inquisitive and motivated bunch of undergraduate and graduate students and post-docs in my group, Kyusei Tsuno, Veronique Le Roux, Justin Filiberto, Ananya Mallik, Megan Duncan, Han Chi, Christine Gerbode,

Sebastien Jego, and Jasmine Moss – all are making me explore new, exciting research territories, giving me a lot of fun.

Family ties are foundational. Without the support of Sushmita, my wife and a credible geochemist in her own right, none of this would have been possible. In fact, things are more fun than ever before with our one-year old son Pritthij, who reminds me to focus more at my work at the middle of the night. Finally, I dedicate this medal to my parents whose selfless support continues to give me the necessary strength as I continue my scientific journey moving between the cultural spectrum of east and west.

To end, I thank all of you for providing a vibrant research community, which I am very proud to be a part of.