

## CHAPTER V

## CONCLUSION

Serum folic acid binding protein (FABP) levels were determined in Thai blood donors and patients with various disease, e.g., malaria, pyrexia of unknown origin (PUO), anemia, hepatitis, cirrhosis of liver, jaundice, hepatomegaly, amoebic liver abscess, carcinoma of the liver and opisthorchiasis by using  $^3\text{H}$ -labelled folic acid. The mean values of serum FABP determined in 85 Thai male and 90 Thai female blood donors were found to be  $30.59 \pm 10.13$  and  $30.91 \pm 13.28$  pg/ml, respectively. There was no statistical difference between the mean FABP values between these two groups. A mean serum FABP level in 175 Thai blood donors ( $30.76 \pm 11.82$  pg/ml) was in the same order of magnitude as the results reported in normal sera previously.

A mean value  $\pm$  one S.D. of serum FABP in 45 patients with malaria was found to be  $174.40 \pm 88.20$  pg/ml (ranged from 50.00 to 385.25 pg/ml). This value was significantly higher than that of the normal subjects ( $P < 0.01$ ).

The mean value of FABP in 52 patients with pyrexia of unknown origin (PUO) was found to be  $120.12 \pm 93.29$  pg/ml (ranged from 16.76 to 435.50 pg/ml) which was significantly higher than that of the normal sera ( $P < 0.01$ ). There was no relationship between the number of white blood count and the serum FABP levels in these patients.

The mean value of FABP in 23 patients with anemia was found to be  $103.67 \pm 93.50$  pg/ml. This figure was significantly higher than that of the normal sera ( $P < 0.01$ ). There was no relationship between the hemoglobin levels and serum FABP levels in these patients.

High serum FABP levels were found in the patients with opisthorchiasis ( $200.92 \pm 151.54$  pg/ml). This value was significantly higher than that of the normal subjects ( $P < 0.01$ ). There was no relationship between the number of white blood count and serum FABP levels of these patients.

An increased serum FABP was also found in the patients with liver disease, i.e. hepatitis ( $105.76 \pm 75.96$  pg/ml), jaundice ( $155.19 \pm 124.80$  pg/ml), hepatomegaly ( $90.96 \pm 74.57$  pg/ml), amoebic liver abscess ( $234.75 \pm 212.15$  pg/ml), carcinoma of the liver ( $177.38 \pm 93.92$  pg/ml), and cirrhosis of liver ( $156.17 \pm 110.20$  pg/ml). These values were significantly higher than that of the normal serum ( $P < 0.01$ ).