

## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY

The northern Thai population consists of many ethnic groups. The majority of the present day population are called Khon Muang. They have been located in the provinces of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lamphun, Lampang, Phrae, Nan, Phayao, Tak and Mae Hong Son. These provinces are mostly located in the upper part of northern Thailand. Besides the Khon Muang, the Khon Yawng have a predominantly high population in northern Thailand, especially in Lamphun, because of their immigration from Mong Yawng in Myanmar to the region of Phya Tilokaraj and Phya Kawila of Chiang Mai. Some of them are also living in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. They prefer to call themselves Khon Yawng rather than the Tai Lue of Sipsongpanna in southern China from which they derive. Khon Yawng are different from Khon Muang only in their dialect, while their cultural style is the same. The last group of this study is the Karen, which moved eastward from Myanmar to Thailand more than 200 years ago and now live mostly in the north, especially on the Thai/Myanmar border. They form the majority of many minority groups of northern Thais. To study these 3 ethnic groups, their genetics were used in the serological typing of HLA-A2, A9, A11.1 and A11.2, and molecular typing of HLA-A11 subtypes. The results showed that the distribution of HLA antigen frequency in Khon Muang, Khon Yawng and Karen was significantly different. HLA-A\*1101 was predominantly found in Karen and HLA-A\*1102 was predominantly found in Khon Yawng. The HLA-A\*1103 was only found in Karen. These serologically based data of the 4 most frequent antigens and HLA-A11 at DNA level will be useful for further studies in

anthropology, organ transplantation, bone marrow transplantation and disease association in northern Thai populations.

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