<u>Acknowledgments</u>

"Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance."

- Meistar Eckhart Tolle

Completion of this doctoral thesis was possible with the support of numerous helpful dignitaries for which I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each one of them. To begin with, I am extremely thankful to my research supervisor, **Prof. Tamishraha Bagchi**, for identifying ability as well as potential in me and choosing me to pursue this research work under his professional guidance. I would like to thank him for his patience, trust, encouragement and immense knowledge delivered. His able guidance facilitated the depth of research in the subject. I am grateful to him for shelling out precious resources including time from his hectic schedule to fulfil all the requirements during the entire Ph.D. work, A better Guide & Mentor for this Ph.D. could've been a rare phenomenon.

I would also like to thank my committee members, **Prof. A. Nerurkar** and **Prof. G. Naresh Kumar**, for being highly supportive and co-operative during my research. I would like to extend my thanks to the Head of the Department, **Prof. G. Archana**, and the **other faculty members** of the department for their timely support, and valuable suggestions. I extend my thanks to **Late Prof. B.B. Chattoo**, Director of the Genome Research Centre, M.S. University of Baroda, for the prompt access of fluorescence microscope and multi-plate reader from his laboratory. Lastly, I also thank **Prof. Sarita Gupta**-Head of the Department of Bio-chemistry for allowing the utilization animal house infrastructure facilities.

My sincere thanks to **Dr. Akhilesh Dhanani** for being a great senior and teaching me all the basic skills related to cell-culture work during my initial phase of research with perfections.

I learned a lot from you which helped me at each of my entire Ph.D. work. I would like to thank **Dr. Abhik Saha** for being friendly, at the same time being a critical senior. Thank you for all the valuable comments and suggestions. I also thank **Dr. Parul Shrivastava** and the other labmates, **Hemanti** and **Sejal**, for all the help.

I am grateful to have so many wonderful friends in my life. I am sort of words to thank my dearest friend, Hasmat, for all the help and support, professionally as well as personally. Thank you for always cheering me up through all the ups and downs, and for giving me many joyful memories to cherish for my entire life. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mitesh for being so kind and helpful. I also thank him for providing me a shelter whenever I needed. Thanks to both of you for all the beautiful moments. This journey would have never been so wonderful without you guys. I can't thank enough to my best friends, Dishita and Urvi, for pushing me to apply at M.S. University of Baroda for the Post-M.Sc. Diploma course. That inspired me to pursue my Ph.D. at this department. I would also like to thank you both for the instant support whenever I needed you the most. I also thank Harshil and Shreya for helping me in your best possible ways.

I am thankful to Smita aunty, Girish uncle, and their entire family. Thank you all for treating me as your own family member. I owe a lot to all you for making your place a second home to me in Vadodara.

I express my heartfelt thanks to all the research students of the department for their help, fruitful suggestions and constant inspiration in science. I am grateful to Hasmat, Anuja mam, and Niralee, whose encouraging words kept me going when caffeine had lost its effect.

I also thank my all M.Sc. dissertation students for all their assistance.

I thank Shirishbhai and Niteshbhai for all their support and making the administration work very smooth. I am thankful to Mrs. Thomas, store in-charge, for timely issuing chemicals, plasticware and glassware. I also thank all the other non-teaching staff of the department for helping in different ways.

I am thankful to the **Department of Biotechnology** (**DBT**) and the **University Grant**Commission (UGC), New Delhi for providing financial support throughout my research

work.

Above all, I am grateful to my parents for educating me in their best possible ways. Your constant support, motivations, and prayers helped me to pursue the doctoral study. Thank you for showering me with so much love and care. I would like to extend my thanks to my parents-in-law, especially my mother-in-law, for being very caring, understanding and supportive. Special thanks to my husband, Rujal, for understanding the value of this degree in my life and supporting me. Your encouraging words further pushed me to work harder to achieve my goals. This would have never been possible without your tremendous support. I am also thankful to my younger sister, brother, and sisters-in-law for all the love and support. I extend my thanks to all the other family members for their blessings.

Last but not least, I am thankful to the God, the Almighty, for all the blessings and giving me the strength to complete the research successfully.

-Ruchi Jariwala