
Acknowledgements

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to those who have contributed to this thesis and supported me in one way or the other during this amazing journey.

*I would like to express my special appreciation and thanks to my Research Supervisor **Dr. Prakash P. Pillai**, who have been my doctoral research endeavor for the past six years. I would like to thank him for encouraging my research and for allowing me to grow as a researcher. His observations and comments helped me to establish the overall direction of the research and to move forward with investigation in depth. I thank him for providing me with the opportunity to work with him. Thank you for your continuous guidance with all the useful discussions and brainstorming sessions, especially during the difficult conceptual development stage. As my supervisor, he has constantly forced me to remain focused on achieving my goal. I would like to extend my thanks to his wife **Mrs. Sucheta Pillai** for being a constant support behind him. I extend my love to his kids **Divya** and **Rudra**.*

*My sincere gratitude is reserved for **Dr. Emma E Frost (Winnipeg, Canada)** for her invaluable insights and suggestions. Despite of her busy schedule, she was able to go through my research work and give her comments and suggestions in less than a week in almost every objective of my work. Moreover, she has also helped me in writing my first research article which later got published. She is an inspiration for me. I would like to specially thank **Dr. Parvez Vora (Mac Master University, Canada)** for his support in writing my research article and also giving very useful suggestions.*

*I offer my sincerest gratitude to the Vice Chancellor **Prof. Parimal H. Vyas** of The M.S.University of Baroda and **Prof. A.C. Sharma, Dean Faculty of Science**, The M.S.University of Baroda or providing*

necessary infrastructure and resources to accomplish my research work.

It gives me an immense debt of gratitude to express my sincere thanks to **Prof. P. C. Mankodi** for providing me an opportunity to carry out my research at Department of Zoology with access to all the facilities. I thank him for his constant encouragement and care during the entire course of my Ph.D work.

I express my heart-felt gratitude to **Dr. Vihās Vasu** for his scientific advices, continuous encouragement and valuable input, his friendly nature has always made me feel at ease with him. I would like to express my sincere thanks to **Dr. R. V. Devkar** for his support, valuable discussions and accessibility to his lab instrumentation as and when required. I would also like to thank the faculties of Zoology department, **Prof. Dolly Kumar, Prof. Kauresh D Vachrajani, Prof. Pragna Parikh, Prof. Geeta Padte, Dr. Sunita Salunke, Dr. B.Suresh Balakrishnan, Dr. Hetal Roy and Dr. Gauri** who have been very kind and supportive at times whenever I approached them. I thank all the teaching and non-teaching staffs of Dept of Zoology for their constant help and co-operation during my entire PhD period.

I am also obliged to **Prof. Sarita Gupta** for her valuable guidance and for being a part of my doctoral committee. I would like to thank her as a co-ordinator of DBT-MSUB-ILSPARE. I sincerely thank her for permitting me to use Animal house facility of **Biochemistry department and Vikramsarabhai Science Block-Central Instrument facilities**. I would also like to sincerely thank **Dr. Laxmipriya Nampoothiri** for her constant encouragement and suggestion throughout my PhD work.

I greatly appreciate the support received through the close collaborative work undertaken with **Mr. Jatin Machhi** under the guidance of **Lt. Prof. Rajni Giridhar and Pro. M. R. Yadav (Pharmacy Department, The**

M.S University of Baroda). The research work undertaken with them is deeply appreciated. I am also grateful to **Dr. M.S.Mustak (Mangalore University)** who allowed me to complete part of my research work in his laboratory. My warm appreciation is due to **Jit Chatterjee**, student of his lab who supported me in completing my experiments in his lab.

I am sincerely grateful to **Prof. Datta Madamvar (Sardar Patel University)** for his initial guidance, training and support since my MSc dissertation which helped me a lot during my PhD research work. I am immensely grateful to **Prof. A.V.Ramachandran**, (Former Dean Faculty of Science), he has been constant source of encouragement, help and inspiration to me.

I gratefully acknowledge the funding sources **DBT-MSUB ILSPARE & DST-SERB, New Delhi** for giving me the opportunity to carry out my doctoral research and for their financial support. I am also honored that I was appointed as Junior Research Fellow of MSUB-ILSPARE during the first year of my study which was subsequently extended to the third year as Senior Research Fellow.

I am indebted to my **PPL** research team members, **Zalak, Jaldeep, Juhi, Kedar, Lipi and Arpita** for providing a stimulating and fun filled environment. I will always appreciate their contribution during my PhD work. I appreciate the contribution of the dissertation students **Dhanush and Hiral**. I am intensely thankful to the former and present research scholars of **Research lab 1**, Dipak, Swati, Jaymesh, Bhavya, Ravi, Menaka, Tejal, Kapil, Ali, Apexa, Kavita, Ankit, Himadri especially **Sarmita and Shweta** for their help, support and encouragement. I would extend my thanks to biochemistry research scholars mainly the members of **SGL and LPL**; **Mitul, Gurprit, Tushar, Akhilesh, Nidheesh, Muskan, Gaurav, Abhay, Radha, Neerja and Arpi** who helped me during my PhD. I am extremely grateful to **Komal** who helped me in Confocal microscopy by taking lot of pain in capturing the best images of my research work.

*I would like to acknowledge **Ragitha** separately for being a true friend. Our association goes a long way since days of post graduation and she has been with me ever since then as a friend, a companion and a fellow researcher. Thank you dear for being with me, for keeping a healthy atmosphere and bearing with me all these days. The discussion and suggestions from her were always valuable to me.*

*I am grateful to **Nitesh bhai** who helped me in administrative work. My thanks to the **Kenith bhai and Mayur bhai** for their innumerable help in several official matters for Thesis submission.*

*At this moment of accomplishment, I would like to pay homage to my grandfather **Late Shri Ram Vilas Tripathi**. I would not have reached this stage in my life without his blessings and encouragement. The biggest support, motivation and encouragement was my **Nanji Shri Ramesh Pandey**. My father **Mr. Baikuntnath Tripathi** has always given me the courage to dream and try to fulfil challenging dreams and my mother **Mrs. Pratibha Tripathi** was always with me in my ups and downs of this journey. Thank you doesn't seem sufficient for you mummy in front of your care, support, love, motivation, understanding and prayers for me. I would also like to extend a huge loving thanks to my sweet sister **Richa Mishra** and brother in law **Gagan Mishra** for their constant support. I feel fortunate to have an understanding mother in law and father in law and express my gratitude for their unconditional support. My special acknowledgement **Tripathi, Mishra, Pandey & Parikh Families**.*

*I would also like to thank all of my friends who supported me in writing, and incited me to strive towards my goal. At the end I would like to express appreciation to my beloved wife **Zalak**. She was always there to support me.*

Besides this, I would like to extend my gratitude to one and all who have knowingly or unknowingly, directly or indirectly helped me in the successful completion of this work

*I thank the **Almighty** for giving me the strength and patience to work through all these years so that today I can stand proud with my head held high.*

Ashutosh Tripathi