

## Acknowledgements

It is my great pleasure to take this opportunity to deeply thank various people for giving immeasurable appreciation and deepest gratitude for the help and support which made this thesis possible.

First and Foremost, Special mention goes to my enthusiastic and optimistic supervisor, **Dr. Prakash Pillai** for his guidance, timely encouragement, patience, motivation and immense knowledge. I appreciate him for having faith in me and giving freedom to work which helped me to excel in my research skills.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **Prof. P.C Mankodi**, Head of Department of Zoology for allowing me to access the facilities of this department and extending the help whenever required.

I take this opportunity to thank all the faculties of this department, **Prof. Dolly Kumar, Prof. Kauresh D Vachrajani, Prof. Pragna Parikh, Prof. Geeta Padte, Prof. B. Suresh Balakrishnan, Dr. Sunita Salunke and Dr. Gauri** who have been very kind and supportive at times whenever I approached them. I thank all the teaching and non-teaching staff of Dept of Zoology for their cooperation during my entire PhD period. I would like to thank **Dr. R.V Devkar** for his support and allowing me to use his lab facilities. I would like to extend my gratitude to **Dr. Vihas T. Vasu** for the evocative conversations and suggestions. I would also like to thank **Dr. Hetal Roy** for her motivating words whenever needed. Special thanks to **Dr. Parth Pandya** for his help and support.

I would also like to thank to **Prof. A.V Ramachandran Menon**, for his guidance and support. I also would to extend my gratitude to **Dr. M.S. Mustak** for providing the generous support.

I am very grateful to **Dr. Emma E. Frost** for her precious suggestions and critically reviewing my research work.

I would also like to express special thanks to **Prof. M. Cristina Cardoso**, Department of Biology, TU Darmstadt for her kind favour in appreciating this study by providing MeCP2 plasmid.

I am sincerely grateful to **Prof. G. Naresh Kumar** for his initial training, guidance and allowing me to use his lab facilities. I am also obliged to **Dr. Rasheedunnisa Begum** for her valuable guidance and for being a part of my doctoral committee.

I am deeply thankful to the research scholars of the department and especially my lab members (PPL group) for all the happy moments spent in and outside lab. My heartfelt thanks to lab members who not only provided necessary support but also kept the scientific spirit high in the lab which also helped me directly or indirectly to complete my Ph.D. study. I specially thank my lab partner **Juhi** for her endless support, encouragement and friendly assistance. Thanks to **Jaldeep** who is like my brother and was always there for me whenever in need for all kind of support. Thanks to Co-JRF **Lipi** for being always there for constant help and support. I also thank **Arpita** for her assistance, valuable suggestions, critical comments and discussions on experiments and presentation. I am also thankful to **Zalak** and **Ashutosh** for their constructive criticism and excellent advice in scientific work. Thanks to **Mohsin** for always being there for help. I also thank **Jit** for his help and support.

I am also thankful to fellow lab mates, **Jaymesh, Bhavya, Sarmita, Shweta and Kapil** for their co-operation during work as well as creating a stimulating and fun environment to make my stay here memorable. I would like to extend my thanks to **Ankit, Himadri, Kangkan, Kavita, Apeksha, Aliasgar** for their support and wish you all the best for future endeavours. I appreciate the help of dissertation students **Hemendra, Neha, Dhruvi, Dhanush** and **Hiral** and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. I will always remember **Foram** for keeping lively environment during her dissertation period.

I am also thankful to **Prof. Sarita Gupta** for allowing me to use Animal house facility of Biochemistry department and Vikramsarabhai Central Instrument facilities. I specially thank **Nitesh bhai** for helping me with administrative work.

I also acknowledge the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for providing me the Project fellowship.

I would not be where I am now, or be who I am without my **Parents**. They have provided me with the best opportunities one could have or want. I would like to thank my parents and entire family for their unconditional love and support, constant encouragement and difficult adjustments. A special thanks to my beloved life partner, **Ritu**, for being understanding, patient and supportive in the difficult times.

Last but not the least, I thank god and all my well wishers for making the Ph.D. journey worth.

- Kedar