

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my late father

Dr. Ashok Kapadia.

He taught me to persevere and prepared me to face the challenges with faith and humility. He was constant source of inspiration to my life. Although he is not here to give me strength and support I always feel his presence that used to urge me to strive to achieve my goals in life. Papa, it is your shining example that I try to emulate in all that I do. Thank you for everything.

I also dedicate this thesis to my mother

Dr. Lakshmi Kapadia.

Mummy, I don't have words to say thank you for raising us single handedly. You are both a mother and father to us. There is no way I can ever thank God for such wonderful parents.