

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Words are not sufficient to acknowledge parents because of whom I am here. The kind of sacrifices they have done made me possible to achieve higher education. My highest praise goes to my Lord who is forever faithful and always there for me.

The present work was carried out at Pharmacy Department, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, during the years 2004-2007. In May 2005, I also had an opportunity to stay in Professor Antti Poso's molecular modeling group at the University of Kuopio, Finland for three months, which is greatly appreciated.

My warmest thanks belong to my principal supervisor Professor M. R. Yadav who gave me an opportunity to contribute to science and inculcated in me a logical approach to tackle scientific problems. I also thank Professor R. Giridhar for her kind support and valuable suggestions during my research work. Thanks to Professor A. N. Misra Head, Pharmacy Department, who provided all the facilities to carry out the work.

It has been a privilege to work as a member of Pharmaceutical Chemistry/Molecular modeling group and I owe my thanks to all my colleagues Bishram, Ramajayam, Prafulla, Shirsendu, Prashant Murumkar, and Prashant Naik and post-graduate students for creating such a good working atmosphere. The entire staff of our department is gratefully acknowledged. I would like to extend my gratitude to Dr. U. M. Upadhaya for his kind support throughout my doctoral research. Funding from University of Grants Commission, New Delhi is also highly appreciated.

Friends are the essence of life. I consider myself lucky to have Yogesh, Pramod, Punit and Anwar's company whose company helped me to sail through in good and bad times smoothly. I am grateful to my fiancée Shilpa for her inspiration and moral support she provided throughout my research work and her patience was tested to the utmost by a long period of separation. Without her loving support and understanding I would never have completed my present work in time. My lovely sister Gauri deserve special thanks for her moral support many times during my tough times. My late grandfathers appa and aaba are remembered as they would have been the happiest people to see me at this stage, they always supported education.

Devendra Puntambekar

Vadodara
7th Oct. 2007