

## ***Acknowledgement***

I am sincerely and enormously thankful to **Dr. Prabhudas S. Patel**, my Research Guide and Head, Department of Cancer Biology, The Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute (GCRI) for providing me an opportunity to work under his guidance. He has been the best mentor and teacher I could have wished for. I am grateful to him who focused my scientific approach, gave me support, encouragement and freedom to grow academically and develop my research skills throughout this journey. I am thankful for his constructive criticism and thorough evaluation. His persistence help, training, suggestions and moral support have been invaluable throughout the tenure. His inspiration and guidance are also being instrumental in shaping my future career.

I deeply bestow gratitude and veneration to my co-guide **Prof. Rasheedunnisa Begum**, Department of Biochemistry, The M.S. University of Baroda, for her consistent guidance, ever inspiring suggestions, and constructive comments that gave maturity to my work. It was her care and moral support that made me run fast over this tough race. I am thankful for her encouragement, advice and feedback throughout the tenure. I express sincere gratitude for building up my scientific aptitude and also for being a strict, but considerate, passionate and caring teacher.

I am grateful to I/C Director, GCRI **Dr. Rakesh K. Vyas**, and Former Director, **Dr. Shilin N. Shukla** for giving me permission for my Ph.D. work. I am also thankful to Dy. Director **Dr. Geeta M. Joshi** for the support, facilities and infrastructure provided at the Institute. I wish to express my thanks to **Dr. Kiran C. Kothari** for all the support.

I am sincerely thankful to **Prof. Sarita Gupta**, Head, and former Head **Prof. G. Nareshkumar**, Department of Biochemistry, The M.S. University of Baroda, for permitting me to carry out this study and for their valuable suggestions.

I am sincerely thankful to **Prof. G. Archana**, **Prof. Anjana Desai** and **Dr. Laxmipriya Nampoothiri** at MSU, Baroda for their valuable suggestions and constructive criticism throughout the tenure.

I am particularly grateful for the encouragement, guidance and training provided by my seniors **Dr. Jayendra B. Patel**, **Senior Scientific Officer** and **Dr. Franky D. Shah**, **Senior Scientific Officer** at Biochemistry Research Division, GCRI.

I am thankful to all teachers of the Biochemistry Department, MSU **Prof. Sarita Gupta**, **Prof. G. Nareshkumar**, **Dr. M. D. Jani**, **Dr. Jayashree Pohnerker**, **Dr. C. Ratan Prabha**, **Dr. Pushpa Robin**, **Dr. Acharya**, **Dr. Laxmipriya** and **Dr. Devesh Suthar** for their valuable suggestions and support during the course of the study and nurturing me with basics during my M.Sc.

I would like to express my whole hearted thanks to **Ms. Shruti R. Patel**, **Ms. Kinjal R. Patel**, **Ms. Kinjal D. Patel**, **Ms. Ragini Singh** and **Ms. Ruchita H. Dave** for sharing continuous support, and a great company all these years. I am grateful for being always there with me, especially during my tough times. I am thankful to the ancillary staff of my division, **Smt. Ashaben** and **Smt. Savitaben** for their help to run my work smoothly.

Thanks BRDians!

With immense pleasure, I offer my sincere thanks to all the HOD's, senior and junior staff members of the Cancer Biology Department (Research wing), GCRI, for their direct or indirect help and support.

I would like to express my gratitude to the clinical wing for their enormous support. I am grateful to the staff of the Blood bank of GCRI for their enormous support in control collection. I am equally thankful to the sisters of wards at GCRI and Govt. Dental College, Ahmedabad for their support in sample collection.

I thank all the staff of the GCRI library for providing the library facilities, which were indeed a continuous source of updated knowledge.

I am delighted in acknowledging the boundless help and support received from my colleagues especially ***Shoaib Mansuri, Tina Alex, Mala Singh, Mitesh Dwivedi, Naresh Laddha and other labmates*** at Department of Biochemistry, MSU, Baroda. I sincerely appreciate the help of ***Rishikesh, Tina and Shoaib*** during my practical work at Biochemistry department. I am grateful to ***Akhilesh Prajapati*** for his valuable guidance whenever needed. I thank all my other colleagues for being there whenever I needed. I appreciate the help of office bearers at Biochemistry department for their support whenever required.

My special thanks to ***Harshul Pandit*** whose continuous and judicious support helped me to get full-text of important articles.

The work would have been impossible without the constant and ever-encouraging support of my parents ***Smt. Diptiben Vajaria*** and ***Shri Navnitbhai Vajaria***. I whole-heartedly thank them for their blessings, support, inspiration, boundless love and for being there with me always, especially in my difficult times. I dedicate my special thanks to my late elder brother ***Bhavesh Vajaria***, who wished for me THE BEST. His ever-cheering personality and divine encouraging words are always there with me. With remembrance of the caring, enjoyable and loving memories of the past with him, I am sure his divine soul is rested in peace.

By the abundant grace and blessings of GOD, I was able to accomplish this work. A special bow to the almighty!

Last but not the least, I am sincerely thankful to all the patients who participated in the study and I sincerely pray to God for the patients' well being.

**BHAIRAVI VAJARIA**