| List of Figures | | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------|--|
| Sr. No. | Title | Page No. | |
| CHAPTER I | Introduction | 1-93 | |
| Figure 1 | Clinical types of vitiligo | 4 | |
| Figure 2 | Structure of the skin | 6 | |
| Figure 3 | Different locations of melanocytes in the human body and their functions | 8 | |
| Figure 4 | Production of Eumelanin and Pheomelanin in Melanocytes | 10 | |
| Figure 5 | Description and electron micrographs of the four major stages of eumelanin melanosome maturation within melanocytes and keratinocytes | 14 | |
| Figure 6 | Different hypothesis proposed for vitiligo etiopathogenesis | 16 | |
| Figure 7 | Interplay of oxidative stress, ER stress and inflammatory cytokines leading to melanocyte destruction in vitiligo Structural organization of human PARP-1 (hPARP-1) | 45 | |
| Figure 9 | Developments in the direction of treatment are starting to become public, opening new approaches toward the full understanding of the genetic basis of complex diseases in general and especially of vitiligo. | 49 | |
| CHAPTER II | Isolation and Culture Establishment of Primary Normal Human Melanocytes from Epidermal Human Skin | 94- 107 | |
| Figure 1 | Establishment of primary cultured human skin melanocytes | 100 | |
| Figure 2 | Confirmation of cultured melanocytes by DOPA staining | 101 | |
| Figure 3 | Differences in cell morphology were observed in the melanocyte culture obtained from different sources | 102 | |
| CHAPTER III | To Study the Transcript Levels of the Immune Regulator Genes: <i>TNFA</i> , <i>IL1A</i> , <i>IL1B</i> , <i>IL4</i> , <i>IL6</i> , <i>IL10</i> , <i>IL1R1</i> , <i>IL1RN</i> and <i>IFNG</i> in Vitiliginous and Control Skin | 108- 130 | |
| Figure 1 | Illustration of SNPs association of candidate genes with vitiligo | 109 | |
| Figure 2 | <i>TNFA</i> transcript levels in skin of vitiligo patients (n=12) and controls (n=12) | 114 | |
| Figure 3 | <i>IL1A</i> transcript levels in skin of vitiligo patients (n=12) and controls (n=12) | 115 | |
| Figure 4 | <i>IL1B</i> transcript levels in skin of vitiligo patients (n=12) and controls (n=12) | 116 | |
| Figure 5 | <i>IL4</i> transcript levels in skin of vitiligo patients (n=12) and controls (n=12) | 117 | |
| Figure 6 | <i>IL6</i> transcript levels in skin of vitiligo patients $(n=12)$ and controls $(n=12)$ | 118 | |
| Figure 7 | <i>IL10</i> transcript levels in skin of vitiligo patients (n=12) and controls (n=12) | 119 | |
| Figure 8 | <i>IFNG</i> transcript levels in skin of vitiligo patients (n=12) and controls (n=12) | 120 | |

| Figure 9 | <i>IL1R1</i> transcript levels in skin of vitiligo patients (n=12) and controls (n=12) | 121 |
|------------|---|-------------|
| Figure 10 | <i>IL1RN</i> transcript levels in skin of vitiligo patients (n=12) and controls (n=12) | 122 |
| CHAPTER IV | To Study the Effect of Interleukins on <i>in vitro</i> Cultured Melanocyte Cell Death, Expression of Melanin Synthesis Genes and Immunoregulatory Genes. | 131- 172 |
| Figure 1 | H & E stained tissue samples from vitiligo patients and healthy controls | 1/11 |
| Figure 2 | Viable epidermal thickness | 143 |
| | MITE-M expression in control lesional non-lesional and | |
| Figure 3 | peri-lesional skin by Immunofluorescence | 144 |
| Figure 4 | Densitometric analysis of <i>in situ</i> MITF-M levels monitored by | 145 |
| Figure 5 | Effect of TNE-q on NHM death | 145 |
| Figure 6 | Estimation of cellular ROS levels | 140 |
| Figure 7 | Analysis of Mitochondrial ROS levels | 148 |
| Figure 8 | Effect of TNF- α on Complex 1 activity | 149 |
| Figure 9 | Effect of TNF-α on AIF levels | 149 |
| | Effect of TNF- α on melanogenesis and, <i>IL6</i> and <i>ICAM1</i> | |
| Figure 10 | expression | 150 |
| Figure 11 | Analysis of MITF-M expression by Immunofluorescence upon exogenous stimulation of TNF- α | 151 |
| Figure 12 | Effect of TNF- α on Autophagy induction | 152 |
| Figure 13 | Effect of TNF- α on apoptosis of NHM by western blot | 153 |
| Figure 14 | Effect of IL-6 on melanocyte cell death | 154 |
| Figure 15 | Effect of IL-6 on <i>MITF-M</i> , <i>IL6R</i> and <i>ICAM1</i> expression in NHM | 155 |
| Figure 16 | Analysis of MITF-M levels in NHM upon IL-6 treatment by Immunofluorescence | 156 |
| Figure 17 | Dose dependent effect of exogenous stimulation of IL-1 α on melanocytes cell death | 157 |
| Figure 18 | Effect of IL-1α on the genes involved in melanogenesis and other immuno-modulatory molecules in NHM | 158 |
| Figure 19 | Analysis of MITF-M levels in NHM upon IL-1α treatment by Immunofluorescence | 159 |
| Figure 20 | Effect of IL-10 on cell death of NHM | 160 |
| Figure 21 | Effect of IL10 on <i>MITF-M</i> , <i>TYR</i> and <i>ICAM1</i> transcript levels in NHM | 161 |
| Figure 22 | Analysis of MITF-M levels in NHM upon IL-10 treatment by Immunofluorescence | 161 |
| Figure 23 | Combinatorial effect of cytokines on NHM viability | 162 |
| CHAPTER V | Effect of Receptor Activation of <i>TNFR1</i> , <i>IL1R1</i> , <i>IL6R</i> and <i>IL10R</i> upon Treatment with <i>TNF-a</i> , <i>IL-1a</i> , <i>IL-6</i> and <i>IL-10</i> Respectively on <i>in vitro</i> Cultured Melanocytes | 173- 195 |

| Figure 1 | Cytokine-receptor interactions | 174 |
|---------------|--|-------------|
| Figure 2 | TNF signaling | 175 |
| Figure 3 | The NHM cells were treated with TNF- α (10ng/ml) and then TNFR1 and TNFR2 transcript levels | 182 |
| | The NHM cells were treated with TNF- α (10ng/ml) and then | |
| Figure 4 | TNFR1 expression levels were measured after 48 hrs of | 192 |
| Figure 4 | The NHM cells were treated with TNE α (10n α /ml) and then | 165 |
| | TNER 1 expression levels were measured after 48 hrs of | |
| Figure 5 | treatment | 184 |
| 1180100 | II.6 and TNFg induced II.6R gene expression in cultured | 101 |
| Figure 6 | melanocytes | 185 |
| Figure 7 | IL6 induced IL6 Receptor activation by confocal microscopy | 185 |
| Figure 8 | Effect of IL1- α on IL1R1 expression in NHM | 186 |
| Figure 9 | The NHM cells were treated with IL-1 α (10 and 100ng/ml) and then IL1R1 expression levels were measured after 48 hrs of treatment | 187 |
| Figure 10 | Effect of IL10 on IL10R expression in NHM | 188 |
| | The NHM cells were treated with IL10 (10ng/ml) and IL10R | |
| Figure 11 | expression levels were measured after 48 hrs of treatment | 189 |
| CHAPTER VI | To Study the Role of PARP upon H ₂ O ₂ Stimulation of <i>in vitro</i> Cultured Melanocytes | 196- 212 |
| Figure 1 | Morphological effect of DHQ on rescue of H ₂ O ₂ induced NHM death | 201 |
| Figure 2 | Effect of DHO on rescue of H_2O_2 induced NHM death | 202 |
| Figure 3 | Analysis of PARylation and PARP1 activation upon DHQ mediated rescue from H_2O_2 induced NHM death | 204 |
| Figure 4 | Effect of oxidative stress on <i>MITF-M</i> , <i>TYR</i> and <i>ICAM-1</i> mRNA expression | 205 |
| | Dose dependent effect of H ₂ O ₂ on MITF-M expression in | |
| Figure 5 | NHM | 206 |
| CHAPTER VII-A | <i>IL1RN</i> intron 2 VNTR and Vitiligo Susceptibility | 213- 238 |
| Figure 1 | PCR amplification analysis of IL1RN VNTR polymorphism on 3.5% Agarose gel | 219 |
| Figure 2 | Relative gene expression analysis of <i>IL1RN</i> in vitiligo patients and controls | 221 |
| Figure 3 | Correlation analysis for duration of disease and different genotypes of vitiligo patients | 222 |
| CHAPTER VII-B | Role of <i>IL10</i> in Vitiligo Suspectibility | 239- 259 |
| Figure 1 | Representative gel image for the genotyping of IL10-819 C/T SNP using ARMS-PCR | 244 |
| | Representative gel image for the genotyping of IL10 -592 C/A | |
| Figure 2 | SNP using PCR-RFLP | 246 |

| | Representative gel image for the genotyping of IL10 -1082 | |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| Figure 3 | G/A using PCR-RFLP | 247 |
| Figure 4 | Haplotype analysis | 249 |
| | Relative gene expression of IL10 in PBMCs of controls and | |
| Figure 5 | vitiligo patients | 250 |
| Figure 6 | Plasma IL10 levels in controls and vitiligo patients | 251 |
| | Genotype-phenotype correlation of -592 C/A, -819 C/T and - | |
| | 1082 G/A promoter polymorphisms of IL10 transcript and | |
| Figure 7 | plasma levels in controls and vitiligo patients | 252 |
| Figure 8 | Effect of IL10 expression on disease progression | 253 |
| Figure 9 | Effect of IL10 expression on gender biasness | 254 |
| Figure 10 | Effect of IL10 expression on GV and LV | 254 |
| | Correlation of IL10 transcript levels with -819 (C/T; | |
| | rs1800871), -592 (C/A; rs1800872) and -1082 (G/A; | |
| | rs1800896) promoter polymorphisms with different | |
| Figure 11 | haplotypes | 255 |
| CHAPTER VII-C | Investigating Association of Promoter Polymorphisms (- 174 G/C) and (-572 G/C) and Transcript levels of Interleukin-6 and Vitiligo in Gujarat | 260- 282 |
| Figure 1 | Genotyping of IL6 gene polymorphisms | 266 |
| | Analysis of IL-6 transcript levels in controls and vitiligo | |
| Figure 2 | patients | 272 |
| Figure 3 | Analysis based on type of the disease | 273 |