

ACKNOWLEGDEMENT

"What people forget is a journey to nowhere begin with a single too". At this point when I am about to submit my thesis it reminds me the perseverance and patience which kept this journey on and to complete it satisfactorily. This journey would not have been so magnificent without the support and efforts of numerous people. Hence before moving further I would like to acknowledge all those who supported and helped me in their small way making this journey an experience I will always cherish.

First of all I would like to thank my research guide Dr. G. Naresh Kumar (fondly called N.K, Sir) who had full faith in me and gave me an opportunity to join the Ph.D program under him. His calmness, optimism, patience and scientific ideas changed my outlook towards any problem both in life and science. The long tea time session with him on any topic under the sky not only made him more approachable but also cleared the fact that then when you think it's over actually there lies a new beginning. I am grateful to him for giving me an opportunity to think and work in a healthy and liberal environment at the Molecular Microbial Biochemistry Lab (MMBL). One of his famous quotes were "You are not here to change the system; indeed make the most of the existing system and move ahead "this statement itself was very encouraging. The whole experience of doing research would not have been so wonderful if you were not the way you are Sir. Thank you will be too small a word to express my gratitude for making whatever I am today. Thanks a lot Sir.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Prof. Tara Mehta (then Head of the Department) and Prof. G. Naresh Kumar (current Head of the Department) for providing me with the infrastructure which included the common facility lab, internet and library. I am also grateful to them for developing such a healthy working environment in the department. It imbibed both a team spirit and healthy competition. I am proud to be associated with the department at it best growing phase.

My heartfelt thanks to Dr. G. Archana, Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology centre, for critically analyzing the work thus giving it a new dimension. I thank you for being there always - be it for providing resources or providing instant solutions to some stuck problem. I always relished those delicious food served with the flavor or hospitality and warmth. Thank you very much Ma'm.

I sincerely thank Prof. Rasheedunnisa Begum, for allowing me to use her lab facilities. I will never forget those words of encouragement which made me sincere towards my work. Thank are due to Dr. Jayshree

Pohnerkar for allowing me to use her lab facilities and above all for those helpful tips on some of the troubling practical problems.

I would like to thank all my teachers; Prof. Tara Mehta, Prof. S. S. Katyare, Prof. S.D. Tehlang, Dr. M.D. Jani, Dr. Rasheedunnisa Begum, Prof. Sarita Gupta, Dr. S.R. Acharya, Dr. Jayshree Pohnekar, Dr. Pushpa Robin and Dr. RatnaPrabha for building up my basics during my M.Phil which were valuable during my work at Ph.D. Their valuable comments especially at the SAC meet boosted up my morale throughout my research tenure. Thanks are due to Dr. Laksmi Priya whom I was associated both as my senior and later as a faculty member.

I would like to thank all the office staff including Mr. Pethe, Akshitaben, Shaileshbhai, Manishbhai and all the other staff members for their guidance in all the official work, I would like to thank Mr. Rameshbhai Nare for keeping the store open whenever needed. Thanks are due to Mr. Kalpeshbha and Anilbhai for helping me in maintaining and organizing the lab to enable the work to move smoothly. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Jeetendra Dave for patiently fulfilling or never ending list of sudden but urgent demands.

The work station at MMBL would not have been the same without the diversity of the members enrolled. To begin with, the Seniors Dr. Vikas Sharma, Dr. Divya Patel and Dr. Prashant Kunjadia helped me to get accustomed to the work culture and basic techniques giving a start point to my work. They taught me to use things more resourcefully and also developed the sense of responsibility towards lab and my work. My dear friends Dr. Gopit Shah and Dr. Aditi Buch made my stay more rocking. I admired Vikas's ability to develop lab contacts, command over oneself at any frustrating point. I will never forget his never ending list of Do's and Don'ts in research. Being an absent minded person myself I admired Divya's perfection and perseverance in handling any project. All those wonderful parties would not have been possible if it was not for Gopit and Divya who took the initiative in organizing them. I thank Gopit for those important tips on cloning and setting up PCR reactions. Aditi not to say was the bubbliest girl around. Her confidence, sincerity and enthusiasm in doing any work were worth acknowledging. Adding on a spiritual outlook were Sonal madam and Praveena madam. The new batch included Prashant Kumar, Hemanta, Chanchal, Jitendra Kavita and Anand. Their enthusiasm and optimism towards the accomplishment of any objective were worth admiring. I wish you all the very best in all your endeavors and thank you all for making my stay a fantastic experience that I will always cherish.

My warm and sincere thanks to all my seniors, Keyur Dave, Dr. Shajil Mahadevan, Dr. Samir Patel, Dr. Munjal Acharya, Dr. Namita Kumari, Dr. Mukta Mohan and Dr. Zainul Sayed for their tips on various technical aspects of research. Keyur's spontaneity and versatility on any topic especially his acting skills were marvelous. It was a pleasure to have you all around during my stay.

Research is more of a collaborative work and it would not have been easier without the help of some next door neighbors. My heartfelt thanks, to Pradeep Mishra, Hemendra, Jyotika, Hina and Iqbal for extending their helping hand to meet all those urgent demands at any crucial point of the experiments.

I would like to appreciate all my dissertation student, Anjum, Priyalakshmi, Anagh, Yash, Paresh, Pranjal and Hetal for being a great helping hand and creating a fun loving environment.

Thanks are due to my research colleagues in the department of Microbiology and Biotechnology Center, Ruchi, Geeta, Sanket, Falguni, Murli, Kuldeep, Nandan, Subbu, Ketan, Sumant and Priya for all those interactive sessions. Those trips to SBC and AMI would not have been such a fun without you all.

This journey would not have been a wonderful experience if it was not for those fantastic friends I had: Aditi she was like a lucky charm. Her presence gave me the confidence to undertake any work, I cherished all those moments whether it was organizing the cultural festival, shopping or going for any scientific meet. She was there to listen to all my problem and her optimism and enthusiasm made the most depressing moment vanish in thin air. Thank you, Aditi for being such a wonderful friend. The lunch and tea club companions included Jyotika, Hina, Hiren, Iqbal, Gopit, Anubha, Chirayu and the rare visitors were Keyur and Hemendra. Thanks a lot for all those fun loving moments which gave the strength to keep me going all through the journey. Thank you to the new comers Purva, Swapnali, Mrunal, Anubha, Niddhesh, Naresh, Mitesh, Purna, Vijay, Malini and Grishma for adding on to the fun and wish you all the best.

I would like to express my gratitude to all my hostel friends Ansuya, Kiran, Sonia, Priyanka Chopra, Priyanka Arora, Pallavi, Surekha, Remya, Bratati, Mahima and Soshina for making the hostel a wonderful place to stay although away from home their presence never allowed loneliness to creep in. I would like to specially thank Priyanka Chopra for all those maggi and Aloo parties we had. The farewell or the welcome dance parties would not have been such a fun without you. I am very grateful to Mr. Pravin Singh for being such a wonderful friend who was a driving force to pursue my research especially when I suffered all those ups and downs in my career. I will always relish those dinners on Sundays not

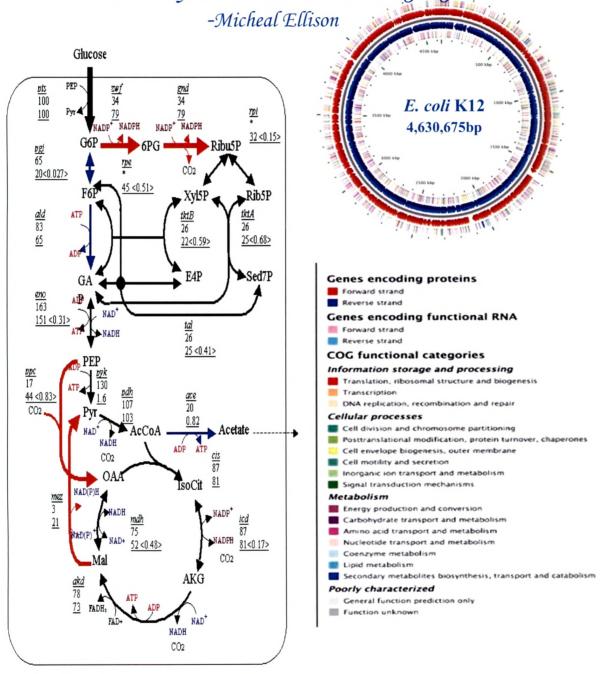
to forget he was my best companion for all the movies and fun. I will never forget all those Do's and Don'ts you imbibed in me making me more confident to face the present world. Your warmth and support gave me the strength to fight any odd battles. Thank you very much for being there for me.

This research work is dedicated to my parents whose patience, sacrifice, never ending love, support, encouragement and faith made this work possible. If it was not for those morale values, confidence and sense of responsibility that they imbibed in me I would not have been able to arrive at this destination.

Last but not the least I would like to thank Almighty God for giving me the strength to stand up to all the expectations of my parents and teachers.

Iisha Elias

"You're not going to recognize the full return of the biological revolution until you can simulate a living organism."



"Everybody studies E. coli for everything"

-Gavin Thomas