

Acknowledgements

My aspiration to gain Ph.D. has become a reality after 6 years of research. During this journey, numerous people have extended their arms to me. At this moment of accomplishment, I am obliged to express my deep sense of thanks to each and every one.

First and Foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to my mentor and supervisor, **Dr. Ashima Bhardwaj** for having faith in my hard work and accommodating me in her research group. During my stay in her laboratory, her valuable thoughts, freedom given to me and moral support had been helpful in mending me as a researcher. With her enthusiasm, her inspiration and her great efforts to explain things clearly and simply, she helped me to make everything perfect. Throughout my Ph.D. tenure, she provided encouragement, sound advice, good teaching and lots of good ideas. It was a blessing to work under her supervision.

I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to my co-guide **Prof. G. Naresh Kumar** for supporting my Ph.D. candidature in Department of Biochemistry, The M. S. University of Baroda. His wide knowledge and logical way of thinking have been a great value for me. His suggestions and personal guidance have provided a good basis for the present thesis.

I am highly indebted to **Dr.(Mrs.) Manju Sharma, Dr. Amit Ghosh** and late **Prof. Kailash Paliwal** for their encouragement, support and sound advice which helped me to improve the quality of my work. They had been a great inspiration for me.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to **Mr. Ashwani Puri** and **The Puri Foundation for Education in India** for providing infrastructure, wonderful lab facility and support to do my research work.

I am grateful to **Prof. Sarita Gupta**, HOD, Dept. of Biochemistry, The M. S. University of Baroda for her support, motivation and suggestions for the completion of my Ph.D.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to **Prof. G. Archana**, HOD, Dept. of Microbiology and Biotechnology Center, The M. S. University of Baroda for her timely guidance and critical comments during my annual presentations which really helped me to refine my data.

I am also grateful to **Prof. R. Begum, Prof. C. Ratna Prabha, Dr. Rajesh Singh, Dr. Pusha Robin** and other faculty members of Dept. of Biochemistry, The M. S. University of Baroda for their teaching, support, timely advice, motivation, critical comments and suggestions for the completion of my work.

I gratefully acknowledge **Dr. Rajani Nadgauda, Dr. D.D. Singh, Dr. Sunil K. Singh, Dr. Chandramani Pathak, Dr. Reena Agarwal, Dr. Anand Tiwari, Dr. Anju Pappachan, Dr. Neeraj Jain** and **Dr. Dheeraj Naik** for their help and suggestions.

I am also hugely appreciative to my colleagues **Mrs. Neha Rajpara, Mrs. Arati Patel, Dr. Rochika Singh, Mr. Priyabrata Mohanty** and **Mr. Braj Mohan** for their support in day to day lab activities, accompany and generosity.

I wish to say special thanks to my co-workers of this project **Mr. Shailesh Bhalara** and **Mrs. Aneri Shah** and to the dissertation trainee **Ms. Maitry Shah**. They had been valuable team members and provided great technical and scientific support for this work.

The entire journey was easier and memorable only because of all my friends. I have to mention the support and help provided by **Dr. Arun K. Singh, Mr. Dhaval Patel, Mr. Kunal Shah, Mr. Naman Mangukia, Mrs. Bhumi Patel** and **Mr. M. Srinivasan**. But I won't say thanks and make their efforts formal. They stood along with me during my good and bad times and became valuable assets of my life.

It is worthy mention the supports provided by **Mr. Kishu Ranjan, Mr. Shoaib Mansuri, Mr. Ujjwal Trivedi, Mr. Abhay Srivastava, Mr. Rushikesh Joshi, Mr. Milton Roy, Mr. Kritart Singh, Ms. Sripada Lakshmi, Ms. Khyati Bhatelia** and **Mr. Keyur Battiwala** for their great support and accompany.

I appreciate the help of administrative and support staff of both IIAR and MSU. It would be difficult to list all those names, however, special mention goes to **Mr. Jayesh Vaidya (IIAR)** and **Mr. Milind Bhai (MSU)** for their timely help and support.

I am grateful to **Prof. V. K. Chaudhary** and **Ms. Shilpi**, Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi South Campus for their support for our DNA sequencing works.

I wish to thank **Dr. S. K. Niyogi** and **Dr. T. Ramamurthy**, NICED, Kolkata for providing clinical isolates for this study and also for the training provided by them in their lab on handling the pathogens.

I take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the funding agencies, **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, Govt of India and **Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM)** Govt. of Gujarat for the financial assistance in the form of Junior Research fellowships and **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Govt. of India for providing financial assistance in the form of Senior Research Fellowship which propped me to perform my work comfortably.

Finally, but by no means least, I would like to pay my respect to **My Parents**, for their sacrifices which are inevitable to educate me indeed. I am grateful to my brother, **Mr. K. Manoj Kumar** who stood next to me in all occasions and felt happy to see me growing up and taking care of my parents in my absence.

(K. Vinothkumar)