

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By the abundant grace and blessings of **GOD** and his everlasting light of guidance, I was able to accomplish this work.

I am grateful to **Prof. Ramesh Goyal**, former Vice Chancellor and **Prof. Yogesh Singh**, present Vice Chancellor, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara for giving me an opportunity to work in this premier University of the nation and providing all the necessary facilities and encouragement for completion of my thesis work.

I deeply bestow gratitude and veneration to my supervisor **Prof. Sarita Gupta**, Head Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara for her consistent guidance, ever-inspiring suggestions and positive comments that gave maturity to my work. She has been the best mentor and teacher I could have wished for. In fact, I feel privileged to have an opportunity to work with her. It was her care and moral support that made me run fast over this tough race. Her inspiration has been instrumental in shaping my future career. I am also very grateful to her for granting me the opportunity to learn and achieve experience from the present study. I still need to learn a lot from her. I sincerely thank madam.....

My special and sincere thanks to **Dr. Sharad Gupta**, consultant pathologist (Gupta pathology lab, Baroda), for his kind co-operation, valuable suggestions, fruitful discussions through-out the study and most important for providing TURP samples and histo-pathological assessment reports of BPH patients' without which the work wouldn't have been possible. Thank you so much Sir. I'm also thankful Dr. Mahesh Desai, Dr. Shashikant Mishra and other staff members of the Urology Department, Muljibhai Patel urological Hospital, Nadiad for availing prostate samples for our scientific endeavor. I cannot forget the contribution of Mr. Nitinbhai Patel (Gupta pathology lab, Baroda) for taking utmost care of the samples before bringing them for analysis.

One more Agilent personality to whom I should pay respect and honor is Prof. Nikhil Desai, former Dean and Prof A.C. Sharma, current Dean, Faculty of Science for their all help in accomplishing my thesis work. Special thanks to Prof. Nikhil Desai for his support, guidance and allowing me to collect control blood samples in the health checkup camp organized by Faculty of Science, The MSU for university faculty members

It gives me an immense pleasure to express my deepest sense of gratitude and regards to **Prof. Ramesh Bhonde**, Dean, Manipal Institute of stem cell and regenerative medicine, Manipal for his excellent guidance, incessant discussion and constant encouragement throughout my work.

I thank Dr. Jayesh Sheth and Frenny Sheth for helping me in cytogenetic analysis of the cells included in my thesis.

With a profound sense of gratitude I take this opportunity to express my thank to **Prof G. Naresh kumar**, Ex- Head Department of Biochemistry for providing me the infrastructure and other departmental facilities for my research work. **Prof. Rasheeda Begum** for her valuable suggestions and continuous encouragement during the study. I sincerely thank all other teachers of the department, Dr. M.D. Jani, Dr. Jayashree Pohnerker, Dr. C. Ratna Prabha, Dr. Pushpa Robin, Dr. Acharya, Dr. Laxmipriya, Dr. Devesh Suthar and newly recruited faculties Dr. Rajesh Singh and Dr. Ravi Vijayvargia for their extensive help at various stages. Special thanks to Dr. Ravi Vijayvargia for arranging my stay in his home during my Boston, USA Visit.

Thanks to my lab my seniors Dr. Jyoti, Dr. Anil Pillai, Dr. Vihas Vasu, Dr. Laxmipriya, Dr. Chirayu Pandya, Dr. Praksah Pillai, Dr. Niraj Bhatt and Dr. Sanket Soni for their help in varied way and full support till the end of my phase. Thanks Vihas sir, Jyoti madam, Chirayu sir and Niraj sir for their prompt replies to my reprint request and for their critical suggestions.

This thesis was possible with hard work, devotion, dedication and concentration, which I was lessened by my ever loving grandparents (**Kaki & Kakaji**) and parents, since the very beginning of my childhood when I started my journey with their fingers support. I do not have words to explain my views how they constantly supported me without uttering a single word in all the prevalent conditions during my thesis tenure. With gratitude and reverence, I acknowledge and admire the love, confidence and moral support bestowed on me by my younger brother **Ankur** and Elder sister Mrs. **Kavita Prajapati** and supported by my brother-in-law **Mr. Shiv Narayan Prajapati**. During the journey I married to **Renu**, my better half. She proved to be very supportive and caring to provide me comfort, during those never ending delays. She always provided a space and time in last phase where I really had to devote time for writing thesis. I thank you Renu for your consistent patience.

My Ph.d would not have attained this shape without the help of my lab mates, especially **Nidheesh, Anubha, Tushar, Muskaan, Abhay, Ragitha and Komal Rawal** with whom I shared most of my lab hours in happy and stress conditions. I thank them for their help with experiments, discussion and critical analysis of the results, which always kept me inventive. Because of their availability (24x 7), made my journey smooth and enjoyable. Nidheesh and Anubha made environment very lightly with their good sense of humor, whenever it got tensed. Many thanks to Nidheesh, Anubha, Tushar, Muskaan, Abhay, Ragitha and Komal Rawal, Mitul, Ankita Ambegaonkar Gaurav and Komal Chawda for their help in various ways, and also in many lab dinner parties, movies, outing etc. All of them made my stay at the lab easier. I cannot forget the valuable contribution of all M.Sc.

dissertation students Akshay Rao, Jhanvi Patel, Monika Patel, Uma Kshatriya, Shefali Desai, Parth Pandya, Sukhbir Kaur and Harsh Shah who worked with me enthusiastically and dedicatedly.

I will be failing in my duties if I do not acknowledge the support, co-operation and suggestions of senior PhD students and my other friends like Dr. Hemendra, Dr. Iqbal, Dr. Jyotika, Dr. Heena, Dr. Aditi, Dr. Mrinal, Dr. Hemanta, Dr. Vijay Makwana, Dr. Purna, Dr. Swapnali, Dr. Chanchal, Dr. Mitesh, Dr. Jitendra (Tiger), Rushikesh, Krishma, Radha, Shoaib with whom I shared tea at DD circle. Thesis writing would not have been completed without the help of Komal Rawal, Ragitha, Abhay and Tushar. They critically evaluated, formatted the drafts several times. I am really thankful to them. They were always available during thesis writing, when I needed help the most. Gaurav, who meticulously helped me in shaping my thesis. It was extremely difficult to complete this work without his help. I am really indebted to Dr. Bhavesh Mistry for spending his valuable time for critical assessment of the prostate stem cell review and his imperative suggestions in my research work. I am also thankful to Rinky Singh from Chemistry department for atomic absorption spectrometry analysis.

I would also like to say thanks to my loving rats and sincere support from all the patients and control subjects without whom the work would not have been possible.

I am highly grateful to the non-teaching staff of my department Pethe Sir, Axita Madam, Ramesh Nare, Ramesh Kamle, Vyas sir, Shaileshbhai, Manishbhai, for their administrative help in dealing with official work and thesis submission, a very special thanks to animal house staff Ramesh Parmar, Vijaybhai and Narayanbhai for helping in animal house experiments.

Thanks to DBT ILSPARE Project for financial assistance and provided necessary facilities required for the study. I thank Dr. Vikram Sarabhai Science Centre staff members Dr. Gitika, Mr. Prateek Arora, Mrs. Sucheta Dadheech for their valuable contribution in generating my data and their opinion. Dr. Shraddha Sane, Mr. Abhishek, Mr. Pradeep Sarkate, Mrs. Pooja, Mr. Chirag, Mr. Bhavik, Mr. Manoj and other members for their help and making environment humorous throughout my stay.

I thank my friends Raj, Pushpendra, Ashish, Dr. Vaibhav, Kunal Pranay, Master ji, and Yash who have not contributed directly to my thesis but helped me to keep my social life alive.

And finally, my heartfelt gratitude to **all the people** within the MSU and outside who helped me to steer when sailing close to the wind of bureaucracy on the last leg of the race!. Last but not the least, I would like to acknowledge **all those whose name** do not figure here but helped me directly or indirectly in shaping this thesis.

Last but not least, a special bow to the almighty.