

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

At the outset let me describe my feelings as I am taking steps to fare good bye to my lab. I would take refuge under a sentence from Tagores poem, "jete nahi debo", which means "won't let you go" says not only **Dr. Jayashree Pohnerkar** (J P mam), but all the things in the lab, the Windows, the Table, the Centrifuges, the Laminar and all other instruments, Glassware etc. But then time moves on and life has to move on." Change" is the rule of the universe and no one can escape it whether one likes it or not.

A journey is easier when you travel together. Interdependence is certainly more valuable than independence. This thesis is the result of seven years of work whereby I have been accompanied and supported by many people. It is a pleasant aspect that I have now the opportunity to express my gratitude for all of them. This is an impossible task, given many people that have helped to design, implement, apply, criticize, sponsor and evangelize the work. I am going to try anyway, and if your name is not listed, rest assured that my gratitude is not less than for those listed below

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