

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The “ALMIGHTY” granted me with this work of Ph.D. as a one amongst the countless blessings on me...

The word acknowledgement might not be enough to express my sincere gratitude to several special people who all were with me to assist me in a myriad of ways for the completion of my Ph.D. course which is not a one man army job but teamwork.

First and foremost, I offer my sincerest gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Pushpa Robin, who has supported me in all the possible ways throughout my Ph.D. journey with her limitless patience, knowledge, and belief in me. She is a guide indeed who always presented a positive and practical approach towards each single thought of mine. I attribute the level of my Ph.D. degree to her guidance, efforts and encouragement.

I place on record my sincere thanks to Prof. C. Ratnaprabha (Head of Department) and Prof. Sarita Gupta (Ex. Head of Department) for their constant support as well as concern and providing all research facilities. The Department of Biochemistry has provided the research support and equipment I have needed to produce and complete my Ph.D. course.

A special thank to my doctoral committee members, Prof. Rasheedunnisa Begum and Prof. Pagi, for their research inputs during annual R&D seminars. I am grateful to Dr. Laxmipriya Nampoothiri, Prof. G. Naresh Kumar Prof. Rajesh Singh, Dr. Sanjeev Upadhyay, and all the teaching faculty for the encouragement extended to me by which I could complete my Ph.D.

My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Mahesh Pandya, Dr. Jignesh Pandya and Dr. Jigisha Pandya of Ghanshyam Clinic, an infertility management center, for their tremendous support and allowing me for the counseling and collection of blood samples of the patients coming for the treatment at centre as well as for always welcoming me as one amongst them with a great concern and helping me out to achieve all my tasks related to Ph.D. work with long lasting discussion sessions in spite of a very busy and above that an extremely exhausting schedule of day and night. A big thank to Vandanaben at the clinic for her help in managing the counselling of the patients and all the arrangements for me. I learnt a lot there and it was a great experience for me being with them.

I wish to thank my lab mates, Sureshbhai, Amruta, Sejal, Tanvi, Akash and Bhanu, who were constantly there to solace me in good and hard times and for making the lab environment joyful. A big thank to Sureshbhai for being supportive, concerned and ready to help all the

times. My enormous thank to Tanvi and Akash for all their love and care and for helping me by rushing whenever I needed. A immense thanks to all the dissertation students Hiral, Laxmichand, Hemangini, Bhanu, Akash, Richa, Ritu, Manish and Sadiq, Chitra and Malvika who worked with me and contributed to this study. I will cherish the great memories of our (PRL family) chatters, celebrations, we all had together.

I sincerely thank Prof. Rsheedunnisa Begum for providing lab facilities for my SNPs work. It was an experience full of knowledge and enlightenment of real research approach. A with gusto thanks to Shoeb for helping me out of the ways without a second thought in the start up and setting of molecular biology work related to SNPs techniques and in learning ingenious strategies. A heartily thanks to Mala for being a very good friend and company as well as for helping me in hands on SNP techniques and for the caring and sharing throughout. My whole heartily thanks to Shahnawaz for all his incredible help and support in designing primers and trouble shooting strategies and taking care of late night ending experiments and in preparing manuscripts and for his “never say no” and “be possitive” approach and for being indeed a real helping help during the entire tenure in RBL as well as Ph.D. course. I also thank to Ashlesha, Sayantani, Roma, Nirali, Jayvadan, Nishant and to all the dissertation students for making me feel at home lab and helping me as and when needed.

I thank all the research scholars in the department especially Jinal, Mushkan, Komal, Ruma, Archanna, Arpi, Mitul, Abhay, Uzawal for being there to overcome the hurdles related to experimental as well as instrumental setup and making the working environment alive. A special thank to Feral Modi Daruwala an out side department friend for helping me in the data analysis of correlation studies.

I am thankful to all the non-teaching staff members, especially, Axita mam, Shailesh bhai, Sandeep bhai, and Anil bhai for the proper functioning of the office work. Thanks to Bhartiben for taking care of the project funding-related work. I thank to Rajeshbhai, Monaben for DST project and to Milindbhai and Mayurbhai at the University office for helping me with the academic-related work.

I am indebted to all the Infertile patients and Control subjects who voluntarily helped me and participated in this study without their support this work would not have possible. Many thanks to N.Dalal Pathology lab team especially Tusharbhai for helping with the sample collection and analysis.

I would like to acknowledge DST, G.O.I., New Delhi, for funding and awarding the PI-ship under the WOS-A scheme as a young woman

scientist. A big thank to Dr. H.B.Singh, Dr. Vandana for their valuable guidance and help for the smooth functioning of all the project work and the staff members at the D.S.T. Bhavan, New Delhi for taking care of project grant and replying actively for all the queries. Carry out a role of a Principal Investigator and a Ph.D. student at a time under this project I learned a lot with a plenty of responsibilities, it was the most learning, fruitful and challenging phase of my life. It has evolved me into a better person with a clear vision for my professional and personal life.

I thank DBT ILSPARE, The M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara for instrument facility and Sicart, V.V. Nagar for GC analysis.

A great thanks to the friends for life I have, Parveen and Heena who are always there to share all sorts of good and bad moments and for encouraging me continuously throughout the Ph.D. tenure.

I feel speechless and can't find any words of thanks for both of my dear parents, my husband and loving kids, my sister, brother and their caring families. Without you all I am nothing and you all are indeed the real deservers of this appreciation.

Thanks to one and all who directly or indirectly, lent their helping hand in this endeavour.