ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WSA MEN

This thesis is the end of my journey in obtaining my Ph.D. I bow down to the Almighty for his presence in all the worsened circumstances and providing me strength to overcome it and complete my dissertation work. I would like to thank all those people who made this thesis possible and an unforgettable experience for me. It is a pleasant task to acknowledge to all those who contributed in many ways to the success of this study and made it a treasured voyage for me.

First and foremost, I owe my utmost gratitude to my guide Dr. Mini Sheth, for her unending encouragement, constructive appreciation and faith shown in me, along with her kind persistence in seeing this study reach its conclusion. Her positive vibes and patience to bear with me always encouraged me a lot in achieving my parents dream. She extended all facilities and provided inspiring guidance for the successful completion of my research work. I deem it as my privilege to work under her able guidance. I ever remain grateful to her.

Special gratitude goes to Prof. Pallavi Mehta, the former Head and Prof. Uma Iyer, Head of the Department of Foods and Nutrition for providing me all necessary assistance from the department.

I also thank to all teachers of the department for having carried me along.

I sincerely convey thanks to Mr. Arun bhai and Potato Research Station, Deesa for providing potatoes from their farm. I also like to thank Ankur Oil Industries, Ahmedabad for facilitating oil for the study.

For guiding and providing me the amenities during my lab work, I acknowledge the Head of Food division, Darshika madam, Barot sir, Mehta sir and Rajguru sir of Food and Drug Laboratory (FDL), Baroda. I also extend my thanks to Mr. V. R. Narendra and K. R. Patel, of Analytical and Environmental Services for teaching me analytical techniques.

I owe an acknowledgement to my PhD mates and friends Swati Parnami, Sujoya Sukul, Ruchi Vaidya, Aakanksha Mahendra, Neha Gupta, and Shriya Sekseriya for their support, encouragement and friendship. They have helped incalculably and inspired me during the entire journey of my doctoral work. Thanks to all, it was a pleasure studying and working with you.

I shall forever remain extremely grateful to University Grant Commission for providing financial assistance for my study.

This degree would remain unaccomplished if I fail to express my thanks to Mamaji (Mr. Ashwani Gupta), Mamiji (Mrs. Uma A. Gupta), Akshit and Ankit. I will remain indebted for their support rendered throughout this tenure.

To born in a freedom fighter family is an honor and I pay a special tribute to my Grandparents for their devotion and sacrifice for the country. They are always a source of inspiration to me.

At this juncture, my parents deserve special mention for their inseparable support and prayers. My Father, Jawahar L. Gupta, encouraged me to do research and join PhD. It was his dream to see me as a PhD. My Mother, Neelam Gupta, always a source of unconditional love and care for me. They stood by me throughout my research roller coaster and always supported me with conviction and oodles of patience during dissertation. Without their support all this would be difficult. I owe them eternal gratitude. I dedicate this work to my beloved parents. My elder brother (Big B) Captain Krishna M. Gupta, who is more like a father to me has provided me emotional support and motivated me for completing my work. He has been my pillar of strength during the times when I used to be in emotional upheaval. Thank you bhaiya... Oh!! Yes, I am fortunate to have these three cheerleaders- my younger brother Er. Kshitij M. Gupta, sister-in-law Deepti Gupta and little nephew Varenyam, they always encouraged me to achieve my parents dream.

It is a statement of fact when one says 'children cannot choose their parents.' Even if I had the choice I could not have gone in for better ones than what Almighty has provided me with. Thank you God for choosing and giving me such lovely family...and carrying me all these years with unending love and blessings bestowed upon me to do this work.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who has helped me directly or indirectly in the successful completion of my thesis, as well as expressing my apology that I could not mention personally one by one.

Ashing . Ashima Gupta