## Acknowledgements

The thesis is the result of the work whereby I have been accompanied and supported by many people. It is a pleasant opportunity to express my thanks to all who contributed in many ways to the success of this study and made it an unforgettable experience for me.

First and foremost, I would like to thank God (Allah), The Almighty for endowing his immense blessings that helped me in each step of my progress towards the successful completion of my research work.

I am deeply grateful to my research supervisor *Professor. P. Padmaja Sudhakar*, for her valuable guidance, dedication, innovative ideas, constant inspiration and encouragement during my research work. She encouraged me to not only grow as an experimentalist and a chemist but also as an independent thinker. I feel privileged to have her as my supervisor who has inspired me to do research in the interdisciplinary area. The outcome of this thesis is a small tribute to my supervisor.

I am thankful to the Head of Department Prof. A.V. Bedekar and Former Head Prof. N. D. Kulkarni, Prof. (Dr.) Anjali Patel, Prof. S. R. Shah for providing necessary facilities and constant support during my research work.

I would like to extend my gratitude to **Solvay Research and Innovation Centre**, at Savli Gujarat, India, for providing me fellowship for financial assistance.

I would like to thank Mr. K. K Patel from Analytical Lab Manager at Solvay R & I Centre, GIDC Estate, Savli for analytical help.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to **Prof. P. K. Jha** and **Dr. Som Narayan**, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, The M S University of Baroda for DFT studies.

I am thankful to **Prof. L. S. Chamyal** and **Prof. D.M. Maurya**, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, The M S University of Baroda for SEM analysis.

I am Grateful to Mr. Pritesh Dasare, DGM-Analytical-Documentation, Compliance & Management, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. for Specific optical polarization Analysis.

I deeply thank to **Mr. Gora Sharangi**, GM Technical, at force scientific for HPLC analysis and **Dr. Hemant Soni** for providing Column for HPLC analysis.

I would like to thank **Dr. S. N. Jha and Dr. Parasmani Rajput** for providing XANES facility at Raja Ramanna center for Advanced Technology Indore.

I would also like to thank **Prof. Vinod Prabhakaran**, NCL Pune for XPS analysis and helping us in deconvolution and interpretation of XPS spectra.

I gratefully acknowledge **Department of Chemistry**, **The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda** to allow me and provide all the facilities available for carrying out my research work. I would like to thank all the in-charge teachers and committee members of different instruments at the Department of Chemistry. I would also like to thank S.A.I.F., CRNTS, I.I.T. Bombay for ESR, HRTEM and EDS analysis. SAIF IIT Madras for VSM analysis, SAIF IIT Kanpur and SAIF IIT Roorkee for XPS analysis and ERDA for SEM analysis. **Dr. Mukul Gupta** (UGC-DAE-CSR, Indore) and **Dr. Suneet Kumar Yadav**, Asst. General manager, Sud chemie India Pvt. LTD. for XRD analysis.

I am thankful to all the teaching and non-teaching Staff of Department of Chemistry (Mrs. Revathi Ganesh, Mr. Rane, Mr. Raval, Mr. Kalpesh Bhavsar, Mr, Bhrahmbhatt, Mr. Vasant, Mr. Mahesh, Mr. Vinod, Mr. Dhiru, Mr. Valand, Mr. Dinesh, Mr. Lokhande, Mr. Makwana, Mr. Rathva, Mr. Rajesh), M. S. University of Baroda for their support and cooperation during the entire course of my research work.

I am also thankful to my friends, colleagues, seniors and lab mates, Ms. Hetvi Dave, Ms. Mohini Sadhu, Mr. Rahul Bhatt, Mr. Narottam Priyadarshi, Ms. Radhika Rao, Ms. Virang Vasveliya, Ms. Divya Patel, Ms. Mridu Kulwant, Dr. Manita Das, Ms. Mayuri Sahiwale, Dr. Khushboo Bhanderi, Dr. Blessy Rajan, Dr. Heta Patel, Ms. Priyanka Salunke, Mr. Aditya Puranik, Ms. Falguni Shukla, Mr. Pratik Nariya, Mr. Naman Shah, Mr. Maitrey Tarwadi, Ms. Komal Kolte, Ms. Sadeka Munshi, Mr. Chirag Savani, Dr. Rina Soni, Ms. Sapna Barad, Ms. Krisha Shah, Ms. Priyanka Mathur, Ms. Varsha Bharadwaj, Mr. Ajay kumar, Mr. Hemanshu Patel, Mr. Sanjiv Tomer, Ms. Astha Dwivedi, Ms. Esha Bhalodi, Mr. Harshil Thakkar, Mr. Miraj Patel, Ms. Jayshree Patil, Mr. Dhaval Tadvi, Ms. Sapna Barad, Ms. Meera Mori, Ms. Margi Joshi for their encouragement, help and all their support. I have an endless list of friends who have enriched my life greatly and I thank them all for being with me. I am also thankful to my seniors Dr. Harnish Soni and Dr. Shilpi Kushwaha for their help.

As always it is impossible to mention everybody who had an impact to this work, however, there are those whose spiritual support is even more important. Words won't be enough to thank my parents, Mr. AbdulJalil Shaikh and Mrs. Sayara Banu Shaikh. They have enlightened my path and always boosted me to go ahead to reach

my goal. I am truly grateful for their endless sacrifices, unconditional support, undying love, blessings and prayers which made tougher time look easier and acts that could not be thanked by mere words. I am deeply thankful to my Sister Ms. Jasmin Shaikh and my brother Mr. Imtiyaz Shaikh for their unconditional support.

I would like to give my special thanks to my husband **Mr. Rizwan Pathan** for his love, patience and support rendered on me. Without his encouragement and understanding, it would have been impossible for me to finish this work. Thank you for being a persistent source of support.

A special mention of thanks to my Grandparents, Mr. AbdulSamad Shaikh and Mrs. Mumtaj Shaikh for their blessings and prayers. My heartfelt regards go to my Father-in-law Mrs. AnwarKhan Pathan and Mother-in-law Mrs. SafiyaBanu Pathan for their moral support.

I consider myself luckiest in the world to have such a supportive family, standing behind me with their love and support. Special thanks to all my relatives for their constant inspiration.

Naznin Shaikh