

## *Acknowledgement*

My stint with science begun when I joined this department for the M.Sc., there I realized the gravity of the subject. I joined PhD after working for two odd years to sharpen my skills so that I can pursue a career in science. I was a total naive when I joined Dr. Jayashree Pohnerkar's lab. Comparing what I was the day I joined the lab and what I am now; I think, I have come a long way in terms of thinking and approaching any problem. I will accredit this change in me to my guide. I am indebted to my research supervisor Dr. Jayashree Pohnerkar, for her precious guidance; scientific counseling and never-ending patience. I don't think I would have survived under any other guide. I am extremely grateful to her for 'tolerating' me. I must confess that if I will make a career in science then it will only be because of her. She always gave me freedom to think independently, plan, execute and analyze my experiments. Thank you very much madam for giving me confidence that I too can do well in science.

The Biochemistry department is not just an address where I conducted my research.... There is something more to it.... A lot more.... For past some time the department had been my second home. I call it a home because the freedom, love, respect, concern and warmth provided by people in the department makes you feel at home with your family.... And that the reason we proudly call it "Biochem Family". The temperament, spirit and enthusiasm prevailing in the air of this place energizes to put in your best effort in whatever you do. Prof. G. Nareshkumar, Head of department whose humble and democratic nature allowed approaching him without slightest hesitation for any kind of problems or even suggestions. He always spared a ear to it and readily acted upon the required. Those tea time discussions with him on science-and-beyond, always encouraged to think big and perform better. Prof. S D Telang's love and concern, Prof. Rasheeda Begum's continuous encouragement, and affection towards me, lively discussions with Dr. Acharya that sharpens once logic, I have always enjoyed his company whether its going to movie, talking about sports or day to day affair. Dr. C Ratnaprabha – a person with great sense of humour, I have always found her company very friendly and I like her practical way of looking at things. Dr. M D Jani's appreciations and very loving approach of Prof. Sarita Gupta and Dr. Pushpa Robin played important role in carving my personality as a researcher. I am thankful to them for warmly accepting me and ensuring that I bring the best out of me.

Namita was my first colleague in the lab and we have spent quite a bit of our initial time in establishing the lab along with madam. She has always taken care of our requirements in the lab. She approaches every problem with a lot of enthusiasm. For me she has been a trusted friend and a great lab mate. Then came Mukta didi, though I tell her anything and everything but I respect her a lot and admire her simplicity, in these many years I have never seen her getting angry on anything that's something I find, tremendous. With Maulik joining the lab I found a perfect younger partner in the lab with whom I can talk the 'men's talk'. Apart from that I have always admired his sharp intellect and have learnt a lot from him whether its science or life. He has always gave a patient ear to my ridiculous talks and my frustrations and has always come up with a unique interpretation. For Purva I think I have been a bad senior as since she joined the lab I have made her work for me and she has always done it happily. She has done my experiments right from making the media up to the execution of the process. Thanks is very little for all her deeds. I will never forget her helps. In between Gurmeet a true Punjabi worked in the lab as an M. Phil student and I must say she was a great entertainer.

Well, I must thank all the comrades (M.Sc) students who worked along with me and contributed to a great extent in completing this work. Kiran was the first one to work with me, I have never seen such a hard working guy. Then came harsh whose contribution in the work has been a lot he was so intelligent that I had never had to explain him about anything and he will always give the positive inputs. I would also like to mention the names of Arun, Dipti, Bhavita and Rekha here, with whom I enjoyed working with. In the end I would like to mention one more name that of Reshma, who, as such has not contributed in this work but while working with her last year on a different project I could rejuvenate my lost interest in science. I appreciate their sincerity, punctuality, obedience and dedication for work, that helped me learn a few things from them as well.

Moving beyond the lab, the first names that come to my mind are my long time friends. I will take back a wealth of real good friends with me from the department, I not only have had great time with them but have learnt a lot from each one's unique quality. I will begin with Jignesh- a diligent worker and a simpleton, Subbu smart and suave, Sidd the intellectual and a Casanova ( I have always been jealous of him), KK- the king, Vikas the coconut hard from out and soft from inside, mallu (Shajil) meticulous and knowledgeable who and one of the most straight forward guy I have come across, Hiren the resourceful, Chirayu the

charmer with a great sense of humour, Hemu with indifferent view and an enthusiast, Maulik the everready man. Apart from them I have always enjoyed the companies of moody mishra, Niraj - the 'Loh Purush' soft spoken Divya, talented Aditi, ever smiling Hina, Jazzy Jyotika, Charul, Meena rai, Vihas Vasu, Jyoti Maroo and many more. I thank them for being a continuous source of motivation and a sink for my frustrations.....provided me with much needed guidance whenever I got confused.

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-- Keyur C Dave.