

## Acknowledgement

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My road to earning my Ph. D. degree has been a lengthy one, and each day was an accomplishment. The journey was like climbing a mountain; once you reach the top, you see another mountain that needs to be climbed and you have to go on. This journey started in 2018 at the Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology Centre, MSU, Baroda, Gujarat, India and it has given me more than just a Ph.D. degree. Without many encouraging people by my side, notably family, a wonderful guide, good lab mates, and friends, this journey would not have been easy. For me, my Ph.D. journey was climbing a mountain where you cannot stop until I reach the peak. Starting from doing experiments, manuscript writing was like a journey and concluded with Ph. D. thesis. It imparted patience, perseverance, and the much-needed dedication and determination in each step.

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