

Acknowledgement

*“And, when you really want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it” –Paulo Coelho, **The Alchemist**.*

The whole of the universe did conspire in the completion of this thesis. I take immense pleasure to extend gratitude to all those around me without whose help and support this dream would have laid back.

*I owe this success to my mentor and advisor **Prof. Bharat B. Chattoo** who gave me the opportunity to work in his lab under his guidance. His critical advices and practical comments have played a major role in pushing forward this scientific work to its completion. His passion for science, will power, patience and positive outlook has always helped me to mold myself to move forward during this tenure and will always help in further venture. I am greatly thankful to him for supporting me.*

*I would like to express my deep gratitude to **Dr. J. Manjrekar**. I gratefully acknowledge him for his timely help and guidance, valuable and critical discussions and also for helping me with my manuscripts and thesis writing. His suggestions had superior role in the making of this thesis. My sincere thanks to **Dr. M. Nair** her suggestions and assistance in pursuing my research work.*

*I thank **Dr. Rajesh Patkar** from the depth of my heart for helping me write up a suitable publication out of this thesis. His confidence and patience in me boosted up my will power even in odd situations.*

*I would like to extend my gratitude the head of the Department of Microbiology **Dr. Anjana Desai**, **Dr. T. Bagchi** and **Dr. G. Archana** who had served the department during the tenure of my doctoral studies.*

*I gratefully thank all my lab seniors specially **Bishnu** and **Kaminee** for the initial lab training and discussions. Lab discussions and presentations with lab seniors **Subhankar**, **Sanjay**, **Pradeep**, **Archna**, **Tulika** and **Malali** has also contributed make happen this research work.*

*I am obliged to my teachers from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, **Dr. Bipin Nair** and **Dr Anil kumar G. Pillai** who had sparked the researcher in me and suggested me Prof. Chattoo's lab.*

*I would always cherish the days spend in this lab and would always be thankful to all my present colleagues without whose constant help and co-operation this thesis would not have completed. My heartfelt thanks to **Harsukh**, **Hashim**, **Hiral**, **Priya Pillai**,*

Sushma, Vikas, Chandra Prakash, Akhil, Divya, Khyati Mehta and Suhail. I would also like thank my previous labmates Shalabh, Mihir and Gopika. I deeply thank Pinal for helping me with the transcriptome analysis and the suggestions in manuscript preparation. I would also like to thank Venkatlaxmi for her patience and timely help in the completion of this thesis.

I offer my thanks to all the members of department of microbiology and biotechnology Centre, Baroda, for their assistance. I specially thank Mr. J. K. Nair, Mr. Amwillsu Varghese and Mr. Nitesh Bhatt for their administrative and technical assistance. I thank the working staff of the department Girish, Mukesh, Ashwin and Ramesh for all time help. I also thank Mrs. Thomas for her kindly help and care.

I owe my husband, Dr. Rejish Kumar for being the intrinsic drive in carrying out this research amongst all odds. His constant support, love and strong will to see the completion of this work has always been my primary strength. My family- my mother, father, sister and my mother-in-law, had supported me extremely both mentally and emotionally during all this arduous phase. They have always encouraged my spirits to move forward and been with me throughout the tough toil. Without them I would never have been able to complete my doctoral studies.

I will very much miss my friends in Baroda Hetvi, Arpita, Priya, Yesha, Anili and Shalini. I shall cherish your friendship forever. I am extremely obliged to my priceless new relatives in Baroda Anandettan and family, Nagar Das dada, Nirmala aunty, Jagruti aunty, Sheeja Chechi and Kaminee aunty for their immense love and support at difficult times.

I am thankful to Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, for their financial support for this research work.

Utmost I am most thankful to the Supreme strength and faith I pray daily to show me my inner strength and to help me overcome each hurdle with extreme understanding and less difficulty.

VARSHA