

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On the successful completion of my thesis, I feel happy and contented in writing this note of thanks to all the ones who have accompanied me through this intensive journey. This long journey has remained a period of intense learning for me on scientific as well as personal front.

*First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and special appreciation to my Ph.D. supervisor **Prof. Tamishraha Bagchi**, for his constant support and encouragement in my research work and allowing me to work in my own way. He is a tremendous mentor who guided my way through his intelligent ideas and immense knowledge in the field. I am thankful for aspiring guidance, criticism and friendly advice during my whole tenure. I am sincerely grateful to him for sharing his illuminating views on issues related with my research work.*

*I extend my sincere thanks to **Prof. G. Archana, Dr. A. Nerurkar, Prof .S .Ingle, Dr. P. Vyas, Prof. B. B. Chattoo, Dr. M.Nair, Dr. J. Manjrekar** and all the faculty members for their timely assistance, valuable suggestions and blessings.*

*I acknowledge the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and **Department of Science & Technology**, for providing assistance in*

the form of research fellowship that helped me to perform my work comfortably

*This journey would have not been completed with the help and support of my wonderful lab mates. First of all I would like to thank my seniors **Dr. G. George, Dr. M. Bam** and **Dr. S. Gaudana** for their guidance and assistance in my early days of work. I would like to thank **Dr. P. Shrivastava** and **Dr. A. Dhanani** for being good friends and supporting me whenever needed. I thank my junior lab members **Ruchi, Hemanti** and **Sejal** for their help and support in smooth running of the lab and maintaining a lively environment. I thank **Sejal** again for helping me with cell culture experiments.*

*I thank all the research students, present and past, of the department for their encouraging thoughts and invaluable suggestions. I thank **Vaishali, Urví, Shashikant, Mansi, Shabarni, Lalita, Namrata, Trupti, Simran, Namrata Nilavar, Anjana, Radhika, Khushboo** and **Bhavna**, my dissertation students for helping me with the work. It was great fun working with you all.*

*I am thankful to all the non-teaching staffs, especially **Mr. S. Nagarkar** and **Mr. J.K. Nair** for helping with all the administrative work. I am thankful to the **Faculty of Science** office as well as the **University** office for their timely help and support.*

*I also thank **University Health Centre** for providing blood samples used in my work.*

*I also thank my foodie friends **Gaurav Díwan**, **Glen**, **Francís**, **Raunaq**, **Terence**, and **Ashtaad**. Restaurants in Baroda were terrorized by our presence.*

*I also thank **Richa**, **Neel**, **Darshika**, **Tanushree**, **Mitali**, **Afsana** and **Khushboo** for always being there when needed.*

*Many people enter and exit from our lives, but only few people leave an impression long lasting. I am thankful to my friends **Hashim** and **Hiral**, as I enjoyed every moment with them. Thank you both for your generous support and your unwavering faith in me. You've cheered me up when I was down and upset, taken good care of me when I was not well. No matter how busy they have been in their schedules, they have always taken out time to help me, support me and care for me without fail. I must thank them both for making each and every moment memorable for me.*

*Finally and above all, I thank my **parents** for forgetting my mistakes, blessings, unconditional support and love. They are the world to me and I owe them everything. I thank my brother **Shamik** for all his love and support.*

Abhík Saha