## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Firstly, I am sincerely and hugely indebted to **Dr. Prabhudas S. Patel**, Senior Scientific Officer and Head, Biochemistry Research Division, The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute for providing me an opportunity to work under his guidance. I am grateful to my mentor who focused my scientific approach, gave me unwavering support, provided encouragement and space to grow intellectually and develop my research skills through out this journey.

I express my sincere gratitude towards **Prof.(Dr.) Rasheedunnisa Begum**, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, M.S. University of Baroda, for guiding me at each and every step of the study. This work would not have been possible without her inspiring suggestions, constructive criticism and constant supervision during the tenure of my work. I am extremely fortunate to have madam as my co-guide.

I am grateful to **Dr. Pankaj M. Shah**, Director, The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute for his support throughout this PhD work.

I am sincerely thankful to **Dr. Shilin N. Shukla**, Deputy Director, Research & Education, The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute for his constant support and valuable suggestions during the whole course.

I express my heartfelt thanks to **Dr. G. Naresh Kumar**, Head, Department of Biochemistry for his permission to carry out this study.

I am also thankful to **Dr. Rajendra I. Dave**, Deputy Director, Surgical Services and **Dr. Kirti M. Patel**, Deputy Director, Medical services, The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute for their support.

My sincere thanks to **Prof. S.D. Telang,** Department of Biochemistry, M.S. University of Baroda and **Prof. L.J. Parekh** Ex-Dean , Faculty of Science, M.S. University of Baroda and Director, Institute of Science Nirma University for their support.

I am particularly grateful for the encouragement and guidance provided by my seniors **Dr. Franky D. Shah** and **Dr. Jayendra B. Patel** at Biochemistry Research Division.

I sincerely appreciate help and also happy to express my heartfelt wishes and thanks to my friends especially **Hina Mir, Jyotika Rajawat** and other labmates **Shajil, Naresh Ladda, Mitesh Dwivedi, Iqbal Vohra** at the Department of Biochemistry, M.S. University of Baroda, who have always been there to help me whensoever needed.

It gives me immense pleasure in acknowledging the boundless help and support, received from my colleagues **Dr. Manisha Shah, Dr. Rachna Sainger, Amisha, Gaurav, Vandana** and **Hetvi** throughout this endeavor. I am proud to be a part of the BRDian family (my second home).

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the staff members of all clinical departments of The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute for extending their support during the study.

I wish to thank Librarians **Mr. Naresh Shah** and **Mr. Jagdish Dave** for providing library facilities during the study.

I am thankful to Smt. Kantaben Solanki and Smt. Ashaben for their help.

I am indebted to all the subjects including cancer patients and their families for their participation which form integral part of this PhD work.

Closer to home, I thank my friends and family, numerous to mention, but who have been with me over the years. I am especially indebted to my brothers **Dr.Rishi**, **Alpesh**, **Tilak**, **Tejas** and my uncle **Late**. **Shri Vinit C. Shah** for their constant love and support. I am also grateful to my sister-in laws **Kavita**, **Indu** and niece **khanak** for support, never ending encouragement and positivity during my work.

I would also extend my gratitude to acknowledge the immense help and encouragement given by my **Saroj ma** (mom-in law) and **Papaji** (father-in law). Last, but by no means least, I take this opportunity specially to thank my husband **Devesh** for his support, patience and also to my daughter **Prisha** who's smiles have made this journey worthwhile.

Dear **Mom** and **Dad**, your faith and love had kept me going, this thesis is dedicated to you. I have tried fulfilling your dreams.

Thanking you,

**TINA K DAVE**