Acknowledgement

It is really difficult to overstate my gratitude to my PhD supervisor, Dr Haresh Keharia, Associate Professor at BRD School of Biosciences for his inspiration, enthusiastic efforts to explain things in a clear and simple way. Sir, thank you so much for providing encouragement, sound advice, best ideas throughout the research and thesis writing stage. I would have been lost without you.

My deepest thanks to Dr Datta Madamwar and Dr. K.S Rao, The former Heads and Dr. Kiran Kalia, Head, BRD School of Biosciences for providing necessary laboratory facilities required for the successful completion of this work.

I am thankful to Dr. KC Patel, Dr. Ujjval Trivedi and all other Faculty members at BRD School of Sciences for all the moral support they extended during the course of work.

I would like to acknowledge the technical support I received from Sophisticated Instrumentation centre for Applied Research and Testing (SICART), Charutar Vidyamandal.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge my teachers during post-graduation at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat, India. They helped me to get onto the first step of the staircase towards the terrace called “Research”.

I extend my thankfulness to my all past and present lab-mates and colleagues- Kishorbhai, Hema, Rachana, Kiran Sir, Hardik Sir, Umang sir, Sushma, Bhavik, Hilor, Tripti, Neha, Shraddha, Deval, Zeenat, Anjali, Hiral, Vimal, Bhawmik, Ankit, Khyati and Gopal. You all provided me stimulating and fun environment to learn and grow. One thing I will always miss about you all is the daily 5:00 P:M missed phone calls for tea at canteen.

I am thankful to Hema, Janki, Umang Sir and Komal Bhabhi for being the surrogate family during these long years of research.

I would like to thank some of my good friends – Perchita, Mandar, Koustoubh, Murli, Vimal, Anoop, Ruchi, Tanvi, Smita, Neil, Sanket, Geetha, Dhirendra, Jigar,
Megha, Vipul. They all helped me getting through the difficult times by giving emotional support, entertainment and care.

I would like to thank the post-graduate students who worked with me for their MSc dissertation; Jayeshree, Navdeep, Narendra, Amee, Khusboo, Aashish, Anoop and Sakshi. They all taught me the sense of responsibility.

I would also like to thank all the small kids who stayed with me at Ramvatika – Bhumika, Shravanthi, Swati, Ratna, Richa and Niti for giving me a good homely atmosphere.

I am also thank full to my all staff members at AN Patel PG Institute for being so co-operative through out the thesis writing phase.

I am always indebted to my Didi, Jiju, Bhaiya, Bhabhi and Put- Put for their understanding endless patience and encouragement when it was most required.

Most importantly, I thank my parents. They raised me, supported me, taught me, inspired me and loved me. I dedicate my thesis to them.

Finally, I thank God Almighty, who made this journey possible.

B. Kavita
Vallabh Vidyanagar