Every journey has some destination and choosing the right path is key to a successful ride. As I reach to complete an amazing journey of my life, now it's time to mention and acknowledge all those people who had made this journey memorable and successful. During my stint at Indian Institute of Advanced Research (IIAR) for Ph.D. studies, I have gathered some of the most valuable lessons that'll definitely help me to achieve my future goals.

First, I am deeply indebted to Dr. Chandramani Pathak, my research mentor at the Department of Cell Biology, IIAR. Merely writing some words can't describe his contribution in my scientific career, but here it is important to highlight his valuable guidance and emotional support throughout my Ph.D. studies. I am very much thankful to him that he has allowed me to enrol my Ph.D. with Dr. Ashima Bhardwaj. Without his support this journey was never possible. I still remember the day he called me for the interview and expressed his vision for an ideal candidate. Since joining the lab I never looked back and always felt proud to be his first student. His care, moral support and motivation never left me in the nostalgia and I really enjoyed this place as my second home during the study. I feel, I have contributed little to his expectations and still learning lots of things from him and that'll be forever. The most inspiring thing that I have learned from him that never would be afraid of failure, just work hard and your desire for success will defeat your fear of failure. His dedication, commitment and efforts made Department of Cell Biology as one of the best labs to work independently. Apart from this, the non-academic side, during my early days at IIAR we used to travel to Gandhinagar on his motorbike to taste some spicy snacks. The tea sessions and occasional dinner parties are among the most cherishable moments in my life. Once again, this Ph.D. thesis & my overall grooming would not have been possible without you, Sir.........Thanks A Ton!!!

Foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Ph.D. guide, Dr. Ashima Bhardwaj for giving me an opportunity to register as a Ph.D. student under her supervision. Her in-depth knowledge and
scholastic experience helped me to finalize the thesis topic and objectives for the study. For me, she is not only a teacher, but also a good advisor and listener. Her attitude to look at science & research inspired me the most and will always boost me to remain optimistic and dedicated. I am deeply thankful to her for encouraging the use of correct grammar and consistent notation in writings and presentations. It was her consistent support and motivation through the rough road to finish my Ph. D. thesis. Thank you Ma’am!

A special mention & thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) Manju Sharma, former Executive Director, IIAR and late Prof. Kailsah Paliwal, former Director IIAR for their meticulous effort for providing IIAR as a recognized institute from The M. S. University of Baroda (MSU) to carry out Ph.D. and making IIAR as a Center of Excellence of Biotechnology in Gujarat. IIAR is one of the best place to carry out high quality research. I’ll always remember their constant encouragement and motivation during my research career.

I would like to thank my teacher Prof. Sarita Gupta, HOD, Department of Biochemistry, MSU. I always remember her guidance and technical support from my master to Ph.D. journey. She was my Ph. D. Expert committee member and a great teacher. Her technical questions during my annual presentations helped me to improve the quality of my work.

I would like to thank my beloved teacher Prof. G. Naresh Kumar, Department of Biochemistry, MSU for becoming my co-guide. I would be always indebted to him for valuable guidance and support. I learned the first chapter of research during my Masters Dissertation project under his guidance.

I would like to thank Prof. G. Archana, Department of Microbiology, MSU. She was my Ph. D. Expert committee member. Her valuable suggestions during my annual presentation helped in improving experimental design.

I would like to express a sincere thanks to my teacher Prof. Rasheedunnisa Begum, Department of Biochemistry, MSU, for her constant motivation through my Masters studies and even during my
Ph. D. work. I learned from her a great lesson that discipline and sincerity in researcher only allow obtaining a great height. Her valuable comments starting from error bars on a graph to analysis of the results during my annual presentations really helped me to improve my data and presentation skills.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the faculties at the IIAR including Prof. Rajni Nadgauda, Dr. Anand K. Tiwari, Dr. Reena Rajput, Dr. Anju Pappachan, Dr. Buddhi Sagar Tiwari, Dr. Satyendra Mishra, Dr. Roli Mishra, Mr. Sarat K. Jena to share their experiences and providing some valuable suggestions during the course of my research work. A special thanks to the IIAR Family as a whole (which includes all the alumni members & the teachers) whose presence & encouragement was always instrumental to carry out my work in a holistic manner.

A special thanks to Dr. Shashibhal M. Pandey, Sr. Assistant Professor, Smt. C.H.M. College, Mumbai University for his valuable guidance for protein purification and technical writing.

I extend my warm & sincere thanks to former faculties Dr. Desh Deepak Singh, Dr. Rajesh Singh, Dr. Sunil Singh, Dr. Dhiraj Naik & Dr. T. K. Rajendra who were associated with IIAR and provided their unconditional support to use lab instruments and suggestions during the tenure of my Ph.D. The academic & informal discussion, we frequently had during breakfast or lunch time helped me a lot to understand the research and other responsibilities more than just experiments.

I would like to thank the faculties of the Department of Biochemistry, MSlU, Prof. C. Ratna Prabha, Prof. Pushpa Robin, Dr. N. Laxmipriya and Dr. Devesh Suthar, for their valuable suggestions during my annual presentations.

I would like to thank, Prof. Avadhesh Surolia, former Director NII, and Prof. G. C. Mishra, former Director NCCS, the knowledge that I gained from them in a very short span of time could not be substituted by any cost or efforts.
My stay in hostel at IIAR was made enjoyable in large part with a friendly atmosphere and cheerful group of my colleagues. I was fortunate to have roommates Ganesh Patil (ganesh bhau) and Dr. Santosh Kumar (Santosh Sir), who were always supportive during my early days at IIAR. Our creative ideas of cooking noodles and making soups were enjoyable after a tired lab work. I am grateful to have friends like Naman (baba), Vikrant, Naresh and our memorable time we spent in the hostel.

I got the opportunity to work as a team with my juniors like Bhargav, Kavita, Foram, Vinita, Khusbhu and Rajan who all made the lab cheerful & research full of life. Bhargav’s sincerity to manage & handle the lab was worth admiring apart from his own work commitments. The theoretical discussion with Kavita helped me in designing some of my experiments. The efforts made by Foram to revive cells and their careful examination helped my work a lot. The discussion with Vinita on protein modelling and docking helped me to design some of in silico work. I hope the new members of lab, Rajan, Khushbu and Santosh will maintain the momentum of the lab with their hard work and commitment. Some former members of the lab Anupama, Sneha, Suhasini, Ashwani, Shubhita, Rajesh for their friendly suggestions and timely help provided during my Ph. D. work. It was a pleasurable moment to work with these fantastic people and their valuable helps shall always be lively in my memories. I wish them Good Luck for their future endeavours.

I would like to thank to Aditi, Ravi & Kimberly who were dissertation students in lab and worked with me. I learned guiding master students for their projects and their presence provided a great helping hand.

I take this opportunity to thank some senior colleague from the different labs of IIAR Dr. Vijay Singh, Dr. (Mrs.) Divya Singh, Mr. Priyabrata Mohanty, Dr. Arun Singh and Dr. Dhanendra Tomar to share their experience and technical help.

It was a pleasure to have research colleagues, Dhaval, Vinoth, Kunal (special thanks for a place in his car during every MSU Baroda trip), Ajay, Lakshmi, Khyati, Pooja, Milton, Brajmohan, Neha, Bhoomi,
Kritarth, Paresh, Bhavin, Sagar, Komal, Manoj, Radhey and many other people for sharing some light moments.

I sincerely acknowledge the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Govt. of India for providing me a Senior Research Fellowship to carry out my doctoral work.

I am very much thankful to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM), Govt. of Gujarat for Junior research fellowship and research grant to carry out my Ph.D research work.

I deeply acknowledge and sincerely thank to Mr. Ashwani Puri, CEO, Puri Foundation for Education in India for providing an excellent infrastructure and financial assistance for my project work. I’ll never forget his constant moral support to achieve the success.

Thanks are due to the administrative staff of IIAR including Mr. Jayesh Vaidya, Mr. Narendra Rathod, Mrs. Cicily Paul, Mr. Mayank Darji, Harshilbhai & all other office staff for their support & help to resolve my project account related queries as early as possible. Thanks are also due to Memonbhai and Sanjaybhai, for carefully maintaining the AC units of cell culture room & always keeping it on the priority level.

I also thank Milindbhai at the administrative department of MSU for speedy execution of some of the university processes which needed to be done urgently.

I express my thanks to Mr. Bhavesh for maintaining the lab cleanliness & always be a helping hand for maintaining lab store room and chemical stocks.

I sincerely acknowledge Dr. Andrew Thorburn (University of Colorado), Dr. Douglas Green (St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, USA), Dr. J A Schmid, (Medical University, Viena), Dr. Penelope Duerksen-Hughes (Loma Linda University, USA), Dr. Susan Nozell, (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Prof. Margot Thome (University of Lausanne, USA) and Dr. Eyal Gottlieb (Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute), Dr. Sabine Adam-Klages (Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-
Holstein, Germany), Dr. R. C. Bleackley (University of Alberta, Canada) for sharing the plasmid constructs.

A special thanks to my beloved family. Words can’t express the greatness of my parents and my mother-in law for their constant encouragement, strength, sacrifices, unconditional love that have made this journey comfortable. This journey would not have been that much easy without their persistent courage, support & conviction. At the end, I realized that your prayer for me was always there to sustain on this roller coaster ride. Lastly, & most importantly, I would like to thank Neha my dearest friend & wife for being there to listen and understand me. The faith & courage she showed to me was always inspiring to be good and honest in my work and long life.

I would like to express my apology for some missing names that I could not remember at present, but their dedication, prayers, & support had an important role in the successful completion of my thesis.

Kishu Ranjan