ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this occasion to thank Dr. K. J. Mukherjee for giving an opportunity to work in his laboratory. I am indebted to him for his guidance and freedom to realize my scientific ideas. Spending time with him has been an education in itself, I sincerely wish to inculcate his poise, affable nature and humbleness.

I thank the present chairman Prof. Uttam K Pati, and former chairmans, Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar and Prof. S. K. Kar for providing all the necessary facilities in CBT.

I would also like to thank Prof. Rajiv Bhat for carrying out a rigorous pre-PhD discussion course, it has really helped me to fine-tune my concepts in protein chemistry. Scientific, not so scientific and sometimes 'intense' discussions with Dr. Devapiya Choudhary have been a learning experience, thanks Devach. I’ll always cherish the time spent with Aparna ma’am (especially during functions at CBT lawns). Presence of Prof. K. B. Roy is really missed by me, his ideas and discussions during 'journal club' seminars were enlightening.

I would like to acknowledge the love and care shown by Dr. Raj Bhatnagar during our pre-PhD course in I.C.G.E.B, New Delhi. I thank Dr. R. P. Roy (National Institute of Immunology), Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar and Prof. Rajiv Bhat for extending their lab facilities which has immensely helped me in the final presentation of my research work. I also thank Dr. Subba Rao (BIC) for his help in bioinformatics related matters.

Many many thanks to Ms. Chandra Thapa, Dr. Koul, Mr. R. B. Barmukh and Ashok bhaiya for their encouragement during my school and college days.

I thank all the past and present students of CBT especially Atul, Smriti, Vibha, Aparna, Nidhi, Mohsin, Ramanuj, Sanjeev, Rajvir, Sarita, Vandana, Prema, Sunny, Suneel, Aditya Sen, Rajesh Mishra, Sujata, Ramani, Aruna, Tanuja, Praveen, Neeraj, Rajkumar, Mohan, Saurabh, Swapnil, Neda, Subhash, Megha, Sheeba, Jeetendra, Manpreet, Veenu, Amjad, Anuj, Anup, Rajkumar, Tejram, Dhireendra, Anjana, Deepa, Dheeraj, Surman (M.Sc), Dileep, Parul, Nora and others who made my stay in CBT memorable. My associates in SLS – Yash, Sindhu, Divya, Rana, Dileep and Savarkar; at ICGEB - Panjab and Ajay; at NII – Mohan, Vicky, need special mention for their time and help.

My seniors who helped me in setting a solid foundation in the initial years, Jagdish, Vikas, Sangeeta Thatay, Gaurav, Prasanna, and Samar deserve special mention. I will also fondly remember by batchmates Puneet, Suman (whose B’ day gifts I have always cherished), Gautam, Hossain, Azhar, Ali and Mehboob with whom my journey started.

My incredible lab members need an extraordinary mention for helping me out of the everyday hassles and distress, the very characteristic of research - Yogi, Gaurav, Ramsukh, Suman, Sangeeta, Palash, Poonam, Thangminlal Vaiphai, Sanjay, Sujeet, Chaitali, Dr. Pooja Rathi, Shama, Raghav, Rajesh, Ravi, Nitin, Bhairav, Leena, Veera, Rashmi, Pushpender and Gaurav
Awasthi. I wish them all a successful future. I miss Shama, Raghav, Bhairav and Awasthi, working with them was a great pleasure.

I also acknowledge the help provided by the CBT staff – Tyagi ji, Vedpal ji, Sindhu madam, Yadav ji, Mr. Aiyer, Dilbagh ji, Mr. Sajan, Mr. Tewari, Geeta ji, and Mrs. Geeta Joshi. Everyday support provided in C.I.F by Naipal Singh ji and by lab attendants Bishu dada, Umesh ji, Mukesh ji, Anil ji, Rajesh (canteen) and others is also duly acknowledged.

Friendly traders like Mr. R. K. Jain, Mr. Naresh Sahu and Mr. Rajeev (Pinnacle) have gone a long way in easing the work pressure.

The dabas and canteens are the lifeline of JNU, I thank Mr. Gopalan, Ajay, Michael (library canteen), Ashok, and Somay Prasad (Godavri dabha) for their love, care and service.

Financial support provided by Department of Biotechnology is sincerely acknowledged.

I would also thank the cricket buffs in JNU. I had a wonderful time hitting and sometimes chasing the red cherry on the JNU stadium ground - Tyagi, Mohanty, Sanjay (kaveri), Suneel, Khurram, Nandi, Neeraj (SL), Krishna (SLS), current CBT M.Sc. students and many others, thankyou.

I am highly appreciative of Munna ji, lovely didi and vaani for their support right through my stay in Delhi.

My lovely friends outside CBT- Vijay, Surya, Teenu, Hemu, Ranjan, Salil, Wapang, Dr. S.C. Singh and Sarika are all appreciated for tolerating me, thanks.

My buddies, Punnu, Yogi, Dheeru, Mukki, Manoj, Gopadi, Himanshu, Patro, Mohan, Ashu and Sorbi are my true earning of the six years in JNU. I’ll miss their presence at every step.

I love my family, my pillar of strength – Daddy, mummy, Shala, Lalla and Sana, I express my gratitude for being with me, their presence in my life makes me feel ‘special’.

May god bless us all.

Amardeep Khushoo