ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With immense pleasure, I wish to express my sincere gratitude towards my supervisors Professor Diwan S. Rawat, Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi, Delhi, India and Dr. Santosh Pasha, Scientist-G, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, Mall Road, Delhi, India for their excellent guidance, motivation, constant encouragement and co-operation during the course of my research work. It has indeed been an enriching scientific experience and a privilege to work with both of them. Prof. Rawat has been a teacher and a mentor to me since my post graduation days in Delhi University and his simple yet sincere, determined and focused approach in research has been an impetus to me to take up research and join the scientific world at first place. My supervisor and guru, Dr. Santosh Pasha at IGIB has been a constant source of energy as well as enthusiasm be it my research or my personal development as a researcher during the course of this work. I shall always remain indebted to her for her patience with me and her constant encouragement to cultivate a scientific aptitude in me. Her knowledge, determination and deep intuitions in myriad fields of research and life shall remain a guiding force for me for the rest of my life.

I offer my sincere thanks to Dr. Souvik Maiti, IGIB, for his constructive criticism, invaluable scientific discussions and unconditioned access to his lab facilities during the course of my Ph.D work. I am also thankful to Dr. Rita kumar, IGIB for providing encouragement and the microbiological facilities for my research work. My acknowledgement will not be completed without mentioning Dr. M A Q Pasha, IGIB, Delhi. His worthy support, scientific as well as moral will always be beyond appreciations on my part.

I wish to express my gratitude towards Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Director IGIB, and Prof. S. M. S. Chauhan, Head, Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi for providing me with all the possible research facilities and creating a competitive scientific environment to work.

I accolade my high respect to my Ph.D. advisory committee members Prof. J. M. Khurana and Dr. M. Nath, Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi for their enlightening suggestions throughout my research work.

My special thanks to Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility (SAIF), All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi and Analytical Instrumentation research
facility (AIRF), Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi for providing me with electron microscopy facility as an invaluable tool during my research work.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my seniors Dr. Gopal S. Bisht, Mr. Krishan Kumar, Dr. Kshitij Gupta, Dr. Ishwar Vats, Dr. Snehlata Vats, Dr. Saroj Kumar and Mr. Mahesh Seth for their help and support during my research work. I am also thankful to my labmates and friends Shruti, Annu, Rikesh, Riitika and Ganesh at IGIB and my labmates and friends Dr. Nitin Kumar, Sunny, Beena, Deepak, Riney, Rajesh and Mohit at Department of Chemistry, Delhi University. Especially, I shall remain indebted to Gopal Sir and Rikesh for their help and support to carry out the experimental work for my thesis.

My sincere thanks to my colleagues at IGIB Purnima mam, Niha, Saurabh sir, Manas Sir, Rashmi, Santosh, Tani, Aastha, Rahul, Zehra, Priyanka, Manjari, Samantha, Smita, Sambudha, Mrityunjay, Anita mam and Richa, Vivek, Abhishek and Poonam people whom I have bothered constantly throughout my research work for personal chit chat as well as research work.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to my friends Garima, Shivani, Sardar, Varun, Siva, Krishan sir and Tanushree for their unconditional support and unfathomable love. As all of us are “Chemist” it has been a great pleasure to share and discuss our personal and scientific experiences in every possible way. You people have been my inspiration and strength to thrive for the best in life.

Above all I am absolutely overwhelmed by the selfless support, constant love and freedom imparted to me by my family for the research work. I don’t have enough words to express my gratitude towards my family for being understanding and patient during the course of my Ph.D. My research would not have been possible without their affectionate and uncomplaining backings.

I extend my sincere thank to administration IGIB and administration at Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi, especially Mr. Baldev Singh (Office), Mr. Amit (Office) and Mr. Mathpal (Store Room/library) for rendering their support as and when I required it.

Last but not the least, the financial assistance provided by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in the form of JRF & SRF is greatly acknowledged.

(Seema Joshi)