Acknowledgements

The completion of my dissertation and subsequent PhD has been a long journey. It’s true that “Life is what happens” when you are completing your dissertation. Life doesn’t stand still, nor wait until you are finished and have time to manage it. Much as happened and changed in the time I’ve been involved with this project, or as some of my dear friends have so affectionately referred to it “The Paper.” I, barring losing confidence so many times I’ve lost count, getting writer’s block just as many times, ending one relationship, moving, beginning another relationship, computers crashing, needing to work as much as possible, and pure frustration in general, knew I’d compete my PhD. I just had to do it in my own time and on my own terms.

My dissertation has always been a priority, but as most know, there are several priorities in a person’s life at any one time. Unfortunately due to life’s challenges and the changes that followed, my dissertation could not always be the number one priority. At any rate, I have finished, but not alone, and am elated. I could not have succeeded without the invaluable support of a several. Without these supporters, especially the select few I’m about to mention, I may not have gotten to where I am today, at least not sanely.

To this select group, I’d like to give special thanks, beginning with Professors Duraiswamy B and Satish Kumar MN who stepped in as my supervisors for their flexibility in scheduling, gentle encouragement, genuine caring, relaxed demeanor and faith on me to attend to life while earning my PhD and making a good working relationship and the impetus for me to finish. I am very grateful to the remaining members of my dissertation committee, Taranhalli AD and Elango K. Their academic support and input and personal cheering are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Three of my friends I must mention are Anil, Rizwan and Chinni. These three constantly asked me “are you done yet?” and affectionately referred to me as their friend the ‘professional student’. Thank you for your encouragement, support and most of all your humor. You all kept things light and I smiling. In addition, these acknowledgements would not be complete if I did not mention my seniors (Vishal, Zalke and Nilesh), juniors (Shashank, Raju, Karthik and Srinu) and colleagues (Viral, Summit, Kunool, Shanmugam, Priyanka and Madhuri). Throughout my doctoral program, they have been a bright light, often sending supportive e-mails and letters, and phoning me to tell me of their lives and asking about mine, always concerned with how stressed I might be. They have re-energized and given me a much-needed reprieve from work and college, not to mention imprinted infinite wonderful memories on my heart. Thanks a lot guys.
Of course no acknowledgments would be complete without giving thanks to my mother. She instilled many admirable qualities in me and given me a good foundation with which to meet life. She taught me about hard work and self-respect, about persistence and about how to be independent. Mom, was a great role model of resilience, strength and character. She always expressed how proud she is of me and how much she love me. I too am proud of her and love her very much.

Last, but certainly not least, I must acknowledge who were not part of the JSS group, but helped me out, including Prof. M. Ramanathan for his support during in vitro studies, Prof Domian Holsinger for his valuable comments on the manuscripts I prepared during the course of study and Dr. Vishakantha Murthy for his support and valuable suggestions.

A special thanks to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (New Delhi, India) for supporting my research financially. I also want to acknowledge Alzheimer’s Association (Chicago, USA), Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi, India) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (New Delhi, India) for providing travel support to attend Alzheimer’s Association International Conference 2012 (Vancouver, Canada), Alzheimer’s Association International Conference 2013 (Boston, USA) and XX World Congress on Parkinson’s Disease and Related Disorders (Geneva, Switzerland) respectively. Along with that I also thank Yu Foundation for providing travel grant to attend forthcoming 14th Asian and Oceanian Congress on Neurology 2014 (Macao, China).

I dedicate this thesis to my family, friends and teachers for their constant support and unconditional love. I love you all dearly.