ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work presented in this thesis was accomplished with the help of many colleagues and friends. It is a pleasant opportunity to express my gratitude to thank all the people who have helped me directly or indirectly in their various capacities during the tenure of my Ph.D.

My heartfelt thanks to Prof. Seyed E. Hasnain whom I have worked with since June, 2004. He provided a motivating, enthusiastic and critical atmosphere during discussions. I thank him for his immense support, outstanding guidance and encouragement during my stay. It was a great pleasure for me to conduct this thesis under his supervision. I owe him lots of gratitude for giving the freedom of thought, amiable environment and motivation which provided in me a confidence in analyzing my research problems. In spite of his busy schedule as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad, he was always available for discussing the progress of my research work. He, as my supervisor, has provided constructive comments during my thesis as well as on the preliminary formalities towards the completion of this thesis. I feel privileged to be associated with him and words fail to express my deepest regards towards him.

I also thanks to Dr. Matthias Wilmanns, who was kindly agreed to be my host supervisor at European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Hamburg, Germany for my DAAD fellowship stay. He was always excited about my projects and was interested in discussions despite of his busy schedule as the head of EMBL-outstation. I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Vivian Pogenberg, Dr. Santosh Panjikar and Dr. Simon Holton for helping me with methods in crystallography. I also want to acknowledge Christian Poulsen, who is always a friend indeed and stand by me whenever I needed any kind of support.

A special thanks to Dr. Krishnaveni Mohareer for being a commendable senior colleague. Her considerate intellectual and moral supports throughout the course of study have been incredible. It would be unfair if I would not thank Sandeep, he is all-time good friend and colleague.

I would like to express my thanks to Director, CDFD, Dr. J Gowrishankar for all his support. I am thankful to the Registrar and the Head, Dept. of Biochemistry at University of Hyderabad for permitting me to register as a Ph.D. student.

I am deeply indebted and would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Niyaz Ahmed, Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, Dr. Sangita Mukhopadhaya and Dr. Murali Bashyam for their constant encouragement and help. I am immensely grateful to Dr. Nasreen Z. Ehtesham for her kind help and the joyful discussions. I also take this opportunity to thank Nitin Pathak for excellent support during the tenure.

I am thankful to CSIR for the financial support given to me as PhD student. I am also thankful to DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) for a long term doctoral fellowship. Project support from Department of Biotechnology and the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics is also acknowledged. I would like to thank “The Bill and Melinda Gate’s foundation” for Global Health travel award which was utilized to attend “Keystone Symposia” on tuberculosis held at Keystone resort, Colorado, USA, where I have presented the work. A travel grant from the organizers is acknowledged to attend “International School of Biological Crystallization” held at Granada, Spain where I have presented a poster. I am thankful to Department of Science and technology (Govt. of India) for nomination and travel award to attend “Lindau Meeting of Nobel laureates and Young researchers 2007”, Germany.
I also owe sincere thanks to the people in the CDFD and EMBL Administration. The work would have been not possible without their help.

I am highly thankful to Khalid, Kaiser, Khursheed and Sreejit for their support as my friends who together with my other lab-mates Zameer, N. Sudhir, Wasim and Krishnamurthy made a wonderful working atmosphere in the lab. We had great time both in and out of the lab in the form of picnic, watching movies, and delicious parties.

Many cheerful thanks to JRF 2004 batch: Sandeep, Tabrez, Ratheesh, Devi, Debashree, Shiny, Kaiser, Aisha, Gita and Jisha for being good friends.

My parents have been constant source of unflinching support and encouragement and this has been a great source of strength and motivation for me to accomplish my objectives. My sisters (Hina, Mina and Uzma) and brothers (Tabraiz and Tabish) have extended all their affection and moral support without which it would not have been possible to pursue my work. I dedicate this thesis to my family.

Yusuf