ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me immense pleasure and humility that this doctoral thesis in the coveted field of Nanosciences and Nanofluidics has seen the light of the day. This could not have been possible without the able and apt contribution of so many people; and it gives me immense satisfaction to record their contribution in this acknowledgement.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the trust and faith that my doctoral research guide Dr. Prafulla Kumar Jha, Professor, Department of Physics, Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University has put in me and given me a chance to carry out this research. In the entire span of my research work he has not only provided able guidance in the issues I faced during my research but his valuable and consistent encouragement and support have propelled me to start and eventually complete this candidature term.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Dr. A.K Arora and Dr. T.R. Ravindran who has made possible my visits to Indira Gandhi Centre for Advanced Research (IGCAR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu for the furtherance of my research as well as their support and guidance in a host of technical issues that I came across during my work. Many thanks to Mr. Karunakar Mishra for his skilled help during experimental work at IGCAR.

The contribution of Dr. S. P. Bhatnagar, Professor & Head, Department of Physics, Maharaja KrishnaKumarsinhji Bhavnagar University has been tremendous and it is with his able foresight that he has made available the required research amenities. Sincere thanks to Dr. R.V. Mehta and Dr. Rajesh Patel for their kind words and encouragement. Also, I am thankful to non-teaching staff and administrative staff of the University for their generous Support.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Rucha Desai for her valuable discussion and suggestions. It is also noteworthy that my senior and colleague Dr. Sanjeev Gupta has been supportive and helpful throughout my research work and it is with his able guidance, advice, supervision, and crucial contribution, made him a backbone of this research and so to this thesis.

I wish to acknowledge the help and support of my colleagues Sanjay Gupta, Shree Mishra, Himadri Soni, Nikita Rathod, at Maharaj Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University who made the strenuous task of the research fun and enjoyable.

The entirety of my thesis would not have been possible without the financial support in terms of fellowships from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi; UGC, New Delhi and Council of scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi. IUAC, New Delhi is acknowledged as part of the computational work was carried out at “Kalki”

Finally, this list is, of course, topped by the most important people in my life: my parents, Bhai and Bhabhi and my most adorable niece Anushree. My deepest gratitude goes to them for their unflagging love, care, support and blessings throughout my life.

Date:  /12/2012
Place: Bhavnagar  Ms. Venu H. Mankad