I knew from the beginning that pursuing doctoral study is a difficult and challenging task. The writing of Ph.D. thesis has been one of the most significant academic challenges I have ever had to face. But one of the joys of completing the Ph.D. work and the thesis is to look over the past and remember all the people who have helped and supported me along this long but fulfilling journey.

The endless thanks go to Lord Almighty for all the blessings he has showered onto me, which has enabled me to carry on my research work. During the period of my research, as in the rest of my life, I have been blessed by Almighty with some extraordinary people who have spun a web of support around me. It is to them that I owe my deepest gratitude.

I am deeply indebted to my research guide, Professor Dr. Pratima Tatke for presenting me such an interesting thesis topic. She has taught me, both consciously and unconsciously, how good research is done. I appreciate all her contributions of time and ideas to make my Ph.D. experience productive and stimulating. She has guided me with her invaluable suggestions and lightened up the way in my darkest times. The joy and enthusiasm she has for her research was contagious and motivational for me, even during tough times in the Ph.D. pursuit. She encouraged me to not only grow as an experimentalist but also as an instructor and an independent thinker. I am also thankful for the excellent example she has provided as a successful woman scientist and professor.

With great reverence, I am grateful to thank Dr. S. Y. Gabhe for giving me an opportunity to work and pursue Ph.D. in C. U. Shah College of Pharmacy.

I am grateful to principal Dr. K. K. Singh and in-charge principal Dr. S. S. Mahajan for providing all the necessary facilities to carry out my research work.

I would like to thank Dr. Devendra Chaudhari of Haffkine’s research and training institute for helping me with histopathological and inflammatory marker studies. I also extend my thanks to Dr. A. S. Upadhye of Agarkhar Research Institution, Pune, who helped me with authentication plant materials.

I am thankful to all the teaching staff members of C. U. Shah College of Pharmacy for helping me during my PhD research work. I also wish to extend my thanks to all the non-teaching staff.
members of C. U. Shah College of Pharmacy, especially I am thankful to Mr. Sudhir, Mr. Hasmukh, Mr. Jayesh for their contribution during the research.

Ph.D. students often talk about loneliness during the course of their study but this is something which I never experienced at C. U. Shah College of Pharmacy. A heartfelt thanks to the really supportive and active colleagues and all my friends who made the Ph.D. experience something special, in particular, Usha Satyapal my dear friend and Ph.D. mate, with whom I can share not only professional issues but also all daily life’s practicalities. I am fortunate to have a friend like Darshana Jain who has solved my problems many a times with her extraordinary brilliance and analytical perceptions. I would like to thank her for providing valuable insights into developing the formulation. The HPLC studies discussed in this thesis would not have been possible without the assistance of Sonal Desai. She has helped me through the totally alien landscape of developing HPLC methods. I would like to thank my other Ph.D mates Preeti, Sushma, Shruti, Aparna, Vaishali and Navleen for helping me. As a whole, my colleagues provided a very pleasant atmosphere to work in. Special thanks to M. Pharm students Pournima Waghmare and Sonal Kasbe for being there always whenever I needed them.

I will forever be thankful to my former college research advisor Dr. Yadunath Joshi. He was the reason why I decided to pursue a career in research. His enthusiasm and love for research is contagious. Also, thanks to Sujata Londhe who had directed me for pursuing Ph.D in this institution. I would like to appreciate all the researchers whose works I have used, initially in understanding my field of research and later for updates.

I take this opportunity to dedicate this work to my parents and brother who have made me what I am, for their faith in me and allowing me to be as ambitious as I wanted. It was under their watchful eye that I gained so much drive and an ability to tackle challenges head on. I appreciate the help and support rendered by my Aunt Lalita and Uncle Dr. Anant Patil during my Ph.D work. I would thank my grandmother (Aaji) Prabhavati Patil and all other family members for their constant encouragement. I would express my deep sense of gratitude to the affection and support shown by my parent-in-laws. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank my
husband Abhijeet. His support, encouragement, quiet patience and unwavering love were undeniably the bedrock upon which the years of my life are being and will be built. His tolerance to my occasional changing of mood is a testament in itself of his unyielding devotion and love. All of you made it possible for me to reach this last stage of my endeavor.

Thank You from my heart-of-hearts.

-------- Deepali C. Mahajan