ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“Success is not measured by the position one has reached in life, rather by the obstacles overcome while trying to succeed”

First and foremost, I bow before God and thank him for his blessings, guidance and love bestowed during every bit of the assigned task and making its completion a memorable experience. This thesis has been kept on track and been seen through to completion with the support and encouragement of numerous people including my well wishers, friends and colleagues.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Research Supervisor *Dr. Balsinder Kaur* (Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Punjabi University, Patiala) for her patience, motivation, enthusiasm and for her continuous support during my Ph.D. Her guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis. During these years, I have known her as a sympathetic and principle-centered person. Besides being an excellent guide, she was like a relative and a good friend to me. Her technical brilliance and intellectual perfection along with constant efforts to improve me has really made me a better researcher and in all a capable person.

I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my Ph.D. study.

I am thankful to my Co-supervisor *Prof. Atul Sachdev* (Director, Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector-32, Chandigarh) for encouragement and guidance for my research work and enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject. I wish to express my indebtedness for his support during the course of my Ph.D.

I would also like to acknowledge the faculty members of Biotechnology Department *“Prof. Praveen P. Balgir”, “Prof. Aruna Bhatia”, “Prof. Neelam Verma”, “Prof. R. S. Singh”, “Dr. Minni Singh”, “Dr. Seema Garcha”, “Dr. Balwinder Singh Sooch” and “Dr. Ranjeeta...*
Bhari” for their valuable advice and constant support. I am thankful for their humble gratefulness and genuine support whenever asked for.

“Friends are the bold essence of life” they are not mere acquaintances but have the will to render timely help to friends in distress. I owe a special word of respect towards my Seniors Balvir Kumar, Deepak Kapoor, Deepika Sharma, Bharti Mittu, Nipunot Kaur, Anjali Chauhan, Dinesh Kalra, Deb Kumar and Rajinder Kaur for their unfailing support, understanding and constant encouragement. I am thankful to them for their timely encouragement, moral support and co-operation. A special word of thanks to all my dear friends Gaganjot, Puneet, Tejinder, Anu, Jaspreet, Navneet, Gundeep, Maleeka who gave me the feeling of being at home while at work.

I also extend my thanks to the office staff; Mr. Satwinder Singh, Mr. Gurdeep Singh, Mr. Indersen, Mr. Mohaninder Singh, Mr. Karam Singh, Mr. Om Prakash, Mr. Dinesh, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Mr. Sukhdev Singh, Mr. Vikram and Mr. Chamkaur Singh for their timely co-operation.

I gratefully acknowledge “Mrs. Nimpi Samplay” (CT Institute, Jalandhar) for providing necessary advice, support for my therapeutic work and for allowing me to use their laboratory facilities during the course of my research work.

Last but not the least my family; I thank my Papa (Mr. Raj Kumar Garg) and Mummy (Smt. Suman Lata) for giving me life in the first place, for educating me with both aspects of art and sciences, for unconditional love and encouragement to pursue my interests, even when the interest went beyond boundaries of language, field and geography. They always stood by my side and have devoted me to heights of optimism out of the bouts of my frustrations. My sincere thanks to Bhua ji (Smt. Usha Mittal) for her continue encouragement and support throughout my life. She embraced me with warmth and care whenever I was upset and going through a
tough time. I would also like to mention my special indebtedness, heartfelt thankfulness and
gratitude to my extended family members, fiancée (Dr. Sanam Jindal), Mummy (Smt. Praveen
Jindal) and Papa (Mr. B. R. Jindal) for their support and encouragements. I am extremely
fortunate in having the best family that God could provide on this earth.

Although I have made an effort to name all but if your name is not listed, rest assured
that my gratitude is not less than for those listed above.

(NEENA GARG)