ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nothing in this world finds its existence without the acquiescence of Almighty God. So first of all my foremost gratitude to my medium of patience and courage the “colossal God” for blessing me with strength to complete this work and providing this opportunity to lean and practice the actual research.

Many people were instrumental and helpful to me in the completion of this journey and on the completion of my work I feel obliged to acknowledge all of them who have always inspired me to complete this work and made this journey a beautiful memory of my life.

It gives me genuine and emotionally profound privilege to express my deepest sense of gratitude and many thanks to my worthy Supervisor, Prof. (Dr.) Neelam Verma, Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Punjabi University, Patiala. She has been the sole inspiration and director of this work displayed by me. She enabled me to complete this work efficiently by her valuable guidance, constructive criticism, innovative ideas and most importantly moral support. 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 personnel.

I am equally thankful to Indian Council for Agricultural Research, NAIP Comp - 4 for bestowing me with the research fellowship and enormous funding to carry out resistance free research. Also my deep sense of gratitude to Dr Sudhir Chandra and Dr Naresh Goyal for providing necessary advice and certain possessions for my work.

My grateful thanks are due to Prof. Praveen P. Balgir, and Dr R.S. Singh who headed the department during this tenure, for helping me with laboratory facilities
and cooperating with me from time to time.

I owe a lot thanks to Dr Minni Singh for her valuable moral support and time to time guidance for the betterment of my work. She has been a friend and a teacher at the same time, and taught me not just the art of living but how to make it a happy and fun voyage.

I would also like to thank all faculty members Prof. Aruna Bhatia, Dr Seema Gurcha, Dr Baljinder Kaur, and Dr Balwinder Sooch for their valuable advice and constant support.

A special word of thanks to all my loving and cherished lab mates and friends Mandeep Kataria, Jyoti Saini, Monika Bansal, Namita Singh and Sachin Kumar who helped me appreciably and assisted throughout this period.

My sincere and heartiest thanks to my seniors Dr Gurnoor Kaur and Dr Kuldeep Kumar for the precious advice time and each at every stage of this work.

All my wonderful friends are entitled to my deepest sense of admiration for their continuous support during all the ups and downs of this phase. Thanks a lot to Gagandeep Kaur Walia, Deepika Sharma, Deepak Kapoor, Mansimran Kaur and Inderdeep Kaur. You all made this journey equally comfortable and memorable.

I am also highly thankful to all non-teaching and laboratory staff of the department for their help and co-operation extended for the successful completion of the work.

The most special indebtedness, heartfelt thankfulness and gratitude go to my dear most parents. I can’t ever thank them enough for making me what I am- I owe them my existence and survival. Thank you God for giving me such lovely parents who have always showered me with their incessant love, persistent support, unfailing back-up, continuous encouragement and numerous blessings. They lifted my spirits
when I would lay down my arms, boosted up my morale every time I would give up urging me to give it another try when an experiment would fail and showering unconditional care, concern and affection always. I ‘Thank you’ Mom and Dad with all my heart and soul. Also I would like to take the opportunity to mention here the gratefulness I have for my sister and brother for their unflinching help, encouragement and cooperation that they offers me always and forever.

I earnestly acknowledge my beloved husband Bharatdeep Singh who gave me the requisite affection, care and support to complete this work. I will fail in my function if I do not thank my new family members who welcomed me heartily in the family and supported me in all respect to complete this work.

Last but not the least, I thank BediCyber Cafe for his help and efforts in bringing this manuscript in final form.

Acknowledgment is a medium by which one can express his/ her indebtedness to one’s guide, benefactor and helpers. This emotion can’t be expressed in just a acknowledgment note. So though all may not be mentioned but none is forgotten.

(Hardeep Kaur)