Acknowledgements

- I express my sincere gratitude to my teacher and guide Prof. Chanchal K Mitra for his disciplined supervision, motivated guidance, valuable suggestions and constant encouragement throughout my research. His wisdom, knowledge and commitment to the highest standards inspired and motivated me in my work.

- I thank the Dean, School of Life Sciences Prof. A. S. Raghavendra and the former Dean Prof. T. Suryanarayana for providing the required facilities for the completion of my research work.

- I thank the Head, Department of Biochemistry Prof. M. Ramanadham for extending the facilities required for the completion of my work.

- I am thankful to Prof. Aparna Datta Gupta for her encouragement, enthusiasm and zeal, which had been the driving forces for my research.

- I am thankful to all the faculty of the University of Hyderabad for instilling in me the scientific spirit and the qualities of being a good scientist in future.

- I am grateful to all my teachers who had taught me in school, college and university for their support and encouragement throughout my career.

- I thank all the non-teaching staff of the University of Hyderabad for their assistance and help during the course of my work.

- I also thank the staff of Centre for Simulation, Modeling and Design (CMSD) for their assistance and support during my work at CMSD.

- I thank UNICEF/ UNDP/ World Bank/ WHO for their financial support in attending Workshop on “3rd Regional Training Course
on Bioinformatics applied to tropical diseases in Southeast Asia”, at Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, during 26 July – 6 August 2004.

- I thank Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Pune for giving me the opportunity to participate in the “Workshop on practical aspects of Parallel Computing on IBM P690 Cluster”, held at Centre for Modeling, Simulation and Design (CMSD), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, during 21-24 September 2004.

- I thank ICGEB and UPE for their financial support in attending the ICGEB workshop on “Chromosome Duplication and Segregation”, held at Trieste, Italy, during 2-5 May 2005.

- I thank CSIR for granting me fellowship and also supporting me financially for attending many workshops and conferences at Hyderabad and New Delhi.

- I thank all my present and former lab mates, friends and well wishers for their support.

- I am thankful to my friend Gautham for being very helpful, understanding and supportive in situations of distress.

- I am very grateful to my parents and brothers for giving me all their love, support and encouragement throughout my life in having a good carrier.

- I am always thankful and grateful to GOD for giving me the courage to overcome the difficulties in my life in order to prove myself.

Shashi Rekha Thummala