Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere and humble gratitude to almighty Lord Sri Venkateswara, who guide me in darkness, helps me in difficulties and his blessings have always been a source of encouragement. I offer my humblest and sincerest words of thanks to my supervisor, Dr. Ch. Paramageetham (Head of the Department) who is forever a torch of guidance. This thesis is the result of four years of work whereby I have been accompanied and supported by many people. I would like to thanks my teachers Prof. D. V. R. Sai Gopal (Board of Studies, Dept. of Virology) and Dr. J. Pramodakumari in Department of Microbiology, who were very kind to me and had encouraged me every time.

I would also like to thank the other promoters who monitored my work and took efforts for successful completion of my thesis work, Giri Prasad, Syed Shameer, D. Chakrarvarthy, K. Jayakumar, D. Veena, G. Swarna Kumari, P. Charan Theja, Jagadeesh Naik, P. Subramanyam, Dr. P. Seshapani, K. Chandra Sekhar, S. Sreevani, Ch. Venkat Prasad, and G. Gandhi at Microbiology Department, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.

I would like to specially mention my friends K. Sumathi, B. Vijayudu, K. Sunil Kumar, L. Sai Krishna, Dr. A. Balakrishna, Dr. A. Ramesh, K. Hareesh, Venkateswarulu, Dada Kalandar, Hari Babu, Peddanna, Dr. Ramesh, Dr. E. Anjaneyulu, Dr. Ram Gopal, G. Karthick kumar Reddy, G. Shivaji ganesh, Dr. J. Laxman, Sudhakar, M. Pulisekhar, Y. Jaya Vardhan, G. Amarnath, Wilson, Balaji (SSR enterprises), P. Subbareddy, Sk. Khadhar basha, N. Mallikarjuna. and Tulasi Ram. S. Harshavarma, Y. Bhagath I will always remember of these friends and they always encouraged and motivated me when I was in struggle.

I am thankful to Harinath, Chandrakala, Balaji, Venkatesh, Raju, Janardhan, and Suresh office staff of Microbiology department.
I feel a deep sense of gratitude for my Father (B. Ramanaiah, mother (B. Ramanamma) and my Brothers (B. Venkateswarulu, B. Sreekanth, and B. Sreedhar) who formed part of my vision and taught me the good things that really matter in life.

I am always grateful to UGC-MRP for providing financial support to carry out my part of Ph.D. research work.

(Basha Sreenivasulu)