
Acknowledgements

It is a great pleasure to acknowledge the help and support of many people who have made this possible and whom I am indebted.

Firstly, I am very much grateful to my supervisor **Dr. Bharatkumar Rajiv Manuel Vyas**, for taking me as Ph.D student and indeed this is my privilege to work under his excellent guidance. I am sincerely thankful to him for providing me freedom, and his untiring approach for valuable suggestions and critical corrections assisted to shape up research in the existing form. I feel thankful as he provided creative, encouraging environment, and teaching me valuable lessons in the Ph.D. I appreciate his thoughtfulness and keen interest in the study that extended my own understanding of this work.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **(Prof.) Dr. J. M. Dave** for scientific advices, enthusiastic approach, support and blessings throughout the study.

I am very much grateful to **Dr. Padma Ambalam** for her recommendation to Vyas Sir for taking me as his Ph.D student. I am also obliged to her for keeping me updated with recent probiotic research, teaching me first step of the research and always ready to help me anytime in all the possible ways and moral support.

I am thankful to **(Prof.) Dr. S. P. Singh**, Professor and Head of the Department of Biosciences, Saurashtra University, for his profound support and providing laboratory facilities during work.

My special thanks to **(Prof.) Dr. V. S. Thaker** for allowing me to use Lyophilizer and **Dr. Jigna Tank** for co-operation during the lyophilization experiment.

I would like to express my thanks to Dr. S. V. Chanda, Prof. V. C. Soni, Prof. A. N. Pandey, Dr. R. S. Kundu, Dr. V. M. Trivedi, Ms. Jigna H. Patel and Dr. N. S. Panchal.

I am thankful to **Dr. Saurabh C. Bhatt**, Mr. Ramesh Purohit, Dr. B.D. Joshi, and Ms. Lopamudra Joshi for their help and providing me with the necessary

facilities whenever required. I would like to thank Niteshbhai for extending the help during the study.

My special thanks to Late **Dr. Narayanasamy Krishnamurthy** and **Dr. Sujatha Sunil** for 16S rDNA sequence analysis of the bacterial cultures.

I sincerely acknowledge UGC, New Delhi, India for **Meritorious Fellowship**.

I am thankful to Dr. Anamik Shah, Professor, Department of Chemistry and Ms. Madhvi Patel for helping me with HPLC analysis. I am also thankful to Dr. Navin Sheth, Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacy and Mr. Ashish Vachhani for permission and technical help for HPLC analysis.

I convey special acknowledgement to my seniors **Dr. Jagruti Gondalia**, Mr. Bhavesh Patel and Dr. Dharmendra Shukla for their help and support. My special thanks to Satyamitra Shekh and Prakash Mervana who were always ready to help in all the possible ways. I am also thankful to my lab mates Hemal Sadrani, Ketaki Chauhan, Vishal Kothari, Parth Bhatt, Bhumi Patel and Tejal Popat for their kind co-operation. I am also thankful to Dr. Vikram Raval and Dr. Harsha Patel.

I am obliged to **Dr. Akhilesh Dhanani** for his kind support in obtaining the standard culture.

I would also like to thank Krupali, Archana, Rahul, Sunita, Sonal and Ekta for their kind cooperation during the study.

Thanks to all my friends Sangeeta, Kruti, Viral, Bhavtosh, Hemali, Madhvi, Kirandidi, Anjisha and Bhavitadidi for their moral support and help.

My deepest gratitude to my loving parents, **Mr. Pramodbhai** and **Mrs. Meghaben** for their care, patience, support, inspiration and freedom, as well as blessings of my **Grandparents** without them I would have never completed. I truly appreciate the support of my sisters **Komal** and **Ripal** for their unending love, care and understanding. I am thankful to God for providing me the strength and patience for the completion of the work.

Sheetal P. Pithva