Acknowledgements

I would like to say ‘thank you’ to many people who have supported my research work enormously and contributed to the making of this thesis.

To my supervisor Dr. Shubha Gopal, thank you so much for making me fully welcome to your research group and encouraging me to learn many things during the course of my research work. You have been very instrumental in designing and executing this piece of research work. You taught me how to gather experimental data, analyze it critically and write scientifically. I thank you for your time, ideas and the creative discussions we had on various aspects of this project. I cannot say how much I appreciate your support for my wish to do a part of my thesis work abroad. Thank you for being a strong mentor to me!

My profound sense of gratitude to Department of Science and technology (DST), Govt. of India for the award of INSPIRE-Fellowship to me and also to DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) for the STIBET travel grant which supported my research stay at University of Wuerzburg, Germany.

I would like to thank the members of my doctoral committee, Prof. Dr. V. Ravishankar Rai, Dr. N. Lakshmidevi, Dr. S. Satish and Dr. M. Y. Sreenivasa, for their suggestions that helped me to improve my thesis.

To my team members Dr. Zarena, Mr. Pradeep, Ms. Sangeetha, Ms. Deepashree, Ms. Nivedita, Mr. Siddegowda and Mr. Sathisha, you were the people with whom I spent much of my time during the last few years. Thank you for your friendship. I am glad that you have shown so much of love on me.

To Prof. Juergen Kreft, I have seen a gem of a person and a scientist in you! You always found time for me whenever I came to you with tons of doubts. Thank you so much for taking care of me during my stay in Germany. I will always cherish our meetings and the nice discussions we had over coffee.
I am extremely grateful to Dr. Wilma Ziebur, Associate Professor, Institute for Molecular infection Biology (IMIB), University of Wuerzburg, Germany for accommodating me in her research team for a period of two months. This gave me an opportunity to learn many techniques and also to do an important part of this thesis.

Many thanks to Dr. Sonja Schoenfelder, post doctoral fellow, IMIB, University of Wuerzburg with whom I had a wonderful time in learning molecular techniques in Ziebuhr lab. It would not have been possible for me to complete my assignment in the lab within the stipulated time, without her help and suggestions. Thanks are also due to Mr. Michael, Ms. Maike Lerch for their kind help in the lab.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Vijaya Kumar, Professor (Retired), JSS medical College, Mysuru for providing the clinical isolates of staphylococci. He has been actively involved in our research, rather than just being a donor of the isolates. Discussions with him made me to understand the clinical aspects of staphylococcal infections.

I must also thank Dr. Manjula, Prof. Dr. Madhuri Kulkarni, Dr. Rajeshwari, Dr. Ranjitha Gowda, Ms. Nimisha Tandon, Ms. Bhavna Bharadwaj and Ms. Rakshitha Gowda for their timely help.

Special thanks to Dr. Sreenivasa and his team members who never said ‘no’ to me whenever I had been to their lab with my PCR tubes!

To my colleagues in the research lab, without your help it would have been difficult for me to complete my experiments. Thank you all for the nice time and I will always cherish the fun we had together (during the lunch break and the tea time!). I would like to say thank you for Rakshith, Nagaraj, Syed, Pradeep V. Samaga, Sankar Ganesh, Rajesh, Mohammad Aman, Azmath Pasha, Yashwanth, Poorna Chandra Rao, Jamuna, Kavitha, Deepthi, Deepa, Kiana, Manasa, Kangkana, Sowmya, Dorin, Sindhu and all new additions to the lab.
I greatly acknowledge the timely help by Mohammad Aiyaz and Divakar from Department of Biotechnology, University of Mysore and Jaimee George from Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru.

Scientific correspondences with Dr. Lalitagauri Deshpande, JMI Laboratories, USA has helped me a lot in my work. Thank you for the immediate responses to my e-mails.

To Lakshmi, thank you for your love, support and encouragement.

My parents and brother might have missed me on many family occasions. But they have always been very understanding. You are the closest to my heart and I love you more than anything!

Thank you so much for all of you!