Acknowledgements

My greatest aspiration for years was my Doctoral Degree and now at this juncture of accomplishment my head bows before the Almighty for making me live my dream. One of the joys of accomplishment is to look over the journey past and remember all those special people without whom this achievement would never have been possible.

First and foremost, I offer my sincerest gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Shantikumar V Nair, distinguished Director, Amrita Centre for Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine & Dean of Research, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, for giving me the opportunity to join his research lab and guide me with wisdom and knowledge whilst allowing me the room to work in my own way. I could not have asked for a better role model, all inspirational, supportive, and patient as him and hope that I can in turn pass on the research values and the dreams that he has imparted to me.

I am grateful to Dr. Ullas Mony, faculty members at Amrita Centre for Nanoscience and Molecular Medicine for contributing his valuable time guiding me through a period of my study. His suggestions and comments have always helped me to think and understand concepts relevant to my study.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Deepthy Menon, Associate Professor, Amrita Centre for Nanoscience and Molecular Medicine. She, a teacher with insight, contributed her valuable time guiding me through the period of my study. All the more, her efforts and skills reflect in the pages of this thesis which my labors will never stand upto.

I owe my gratitude to Prof. Manzoor Koyakutty, Amrita Centre for Nanoscience and Molecular Medicine for imparting his positive attitude and the invaluable scientific talks we had as well as for his overall guidance. He always kept an eye on the progress of my work and was available when I needed his advice.
I thank Prof. N. Selvamurugan former faculty member at Amrita Centre for Nanoscience and Molecular Medicine for his invaluable suggestions during the initial stages of my work.

I also acknowledge Prof. R. Jayakumar, Amrita Centre for Nanoscience and Molecular Medicine for his support and co-operation during the entire period of my thesis work.

I am indebted to Prof. A.K.K Unni and Dr. Reshmy, and Mr. Sunil and all other members of the animal facility, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre for their valuable suggestions and support extended for animal studies.

I gratefully acknowledge Dr. Mira Mohanty, Scientist G, Histopathology Laboratory and Dr. Sabareeswaran A, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology for the fruitful discussions and help.

Sri. Mulloor Surendran, my childhood teacher, who inspired me to pursue my dreams and taught me the art of ‘discriminative thinking’, also deserves to be acknowledged. He was the one who made me realise my true ambitions and is a reason behind my interest in research. I am greatly indebted to him for the way he has moulded me.

The constant pursuit to achieve my goals may not have been fuelled, if not for the energy, cheerfulness and unflinching help of a very sincere group of friends and colleagues at the Centre.

My heartfelt thanks to my dear friends, Mr. Sajin P Ravi, and Mr. Sarath S for their excellent technical support provided for Scanning electron microscopy, Spectroscopy and Confocal microscopy and Shalumon KT, Abhilash Sasidharan, Sudheesh kumar PT, Suja Stephen, and Amrita Natarajan and all other tissue engineering lab members for helping me during the execution of my experiments. Nevertheless, my sincere token of thanks extends to the rest of my colleagues, friends,
faculties and office staffs who have immensely helped me personally and professionally.

No one is forgotten, although, not mentioned.

I wish to acknowledge the support from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, under the Bioengineering program monitored by Dr A Duggal and from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, under the Nanomission Program monitored by Prof. CNR Rao. I am sincerely obliged to the CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research), Government of India, for the financial support through a Senior Research Fellowship.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, for providing substantial infrastructure support for research in Nanobiomedical sciences.

Finally, I thank my parents and brother for their unconditional love, support and inspiration. My wife, whose love and encouragement allowed me to finish this journey. She already has my heart so I will just give her a heartfelt “thanks”. My little one, Tanmaya, although the latest addition to the family, has made my days worth cherishable. Thanks to her too.