

## *Acknowledgement*

*A journey is easier when you travel together. Interdependence is certainly more valuable than independence. Whereby I have been accompanied and supported by many people during my work. It is a pleasant aspect that I have now the opportunity to express my gratitude for all of them.*

*My utmost gratitude goes to my guide, Prof. S. P. Govindwar for allowing me to join his team, for his expertise, kindness, and most of all, for his patience. His overly enthusiasm and integral view on research and his mission for providing 'only high-quality work and not less', has made a deep impression on me. I owe him lots of gratitude for having me shown this way of research. He could not even realize how much I have learned from him.*

*I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to my teachers from the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology; Dr. Mrs. A. U. Arvindekar, Dr. P. M. Gurao, Dr. Mrs. J. P. Jadhav, Dr. K. D. Sonawane, Dr. Mrs. P. B. Dandge and Dr. J. S. Ghosh whose suggestions were always useful to me.*

*I owe my special thanks to Mr. R. J. Rane and all non-teaching staff from the Department of Biochemistry whose direct or indirect co-operation during the entire course was valuable.*

*My former colleagues from the Department of Biochemistry Dr. Ganesh Saratale, Dr. Ganesh Parshetti, Miss. Sushma Ghomare, Mrs. Jyotsna Patil and Mr. Ashok Chougule who supported me in my research work. I want to thank them for all their help, support, interest and valuable hints. This work would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of my colleague and friend Dr. Satish Kalme. Especially I am obliged to Dr. Rajaram Patil for his kind help.*

*All my lab buddies at the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology Mr. Gajanan Ghodake, Mrs. Preeti Deshpande, Mr. Umesh Jadhav, Mr. Vishal Dawkar, Mr. Amar Telke, Ms. Utkarsha Shedbalkar, Mr. Rishikesh Dhanve,*

*Ms. Pratibha Patil, Mr. Dayanand Kalyani, Ms. Varsha Ghadyale, , Mr. Shreehari Taklikar, Mr. Navnath Kumbhar , Mr. Shrimant Panaskar, Ms. Rijuta Humnabadkar, Mr. Rajesh Gudmalwar, Mr. Dhawal Tamboli, Mr. Swapnil Phugare, Mr. Bajarang Kumbhar, Mr. Naiem Nadaf and Mr. Shailesh Waghmare made it a convivial place to work. Also, I would like to mention my thanks to the research colleague and my good friend Ms. Anuradha Kagalkar. Immense flow of sweet memories can not avoid mentioning an immortal bonding with Ms Mital Jadhav and who had inspired me in research and life through our interactions.*

*I am indebted to my all students of Microbiology Department, especially Mr. Shripad Survase.*

*I wish to thank my entire extended family for providing a loving environment for me.*

*Finally, I would like to thank all those who have directly or indirectly helped me in this work and whose name I may have inadvertently missed to mention.*

*Last but not least, thanks to God for my life through all tests in the past years. You have made my life more beautiful. May your name be exalted, honored, and glorified.*

*- Sheetal*