Acknowledgements

Despite being the sole author of this thesis, by no means the sole contributor! Many people have contributed directly or indirectly to this thesis, to my education, and to my life, and this is the only opportunity to thank them.

First and foremost, I would take this opportunity to express my sincere and profound gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Ashish Arora, Scientist E1, Molecular and Structural Biology Division, CDRI, Lucknow for his constant support and encouragement in my entire research work. His scientific acumen, strong determination, excellent knowledge, immense valuable ideas and never-say-die attitude impressed me a lot. During our association of more than five years, he always supported me with his constructive criticism and words of encouragement. He always praised my abilities to make me feel comfortable. It’s really proud to have teacher like him.

I thank Dr. C. M. Gupta Director, CDRI for providing me the necessary facilities. I attribute my sincere thanks to Dr. Vinod Bhakuni, who helped me a lot in this period. I want to express my sincere thanks to Dr. S. Habib, Dr. R. Ravishankar, Dr. P. R. Maulik, Dr. J. K. Ghosh, Dr. S. Ahmad and Dr. J. V. for their support and suggestions. I want to acknowledge Dr. Imran Siddiqui for in silico screening, he was always found helpful to me with his suggestions and calm behaviour.

My lab members Naresh, Akshaya, Ramakrishna, Anupam, Anjum, Prem, Ashok, Arti and Ravi, Sidharth and Amin from the lab members of Dr. C. Sharma are highly acknowledged. I am especially thankful to Naresh and Ramakrishna for all his encouraging words.

I am thankful to those trainees who joined our lab- Ajay, Asit, Priyanka, Rahul, Archaa, Srinivas, Hari, Zabiulla, Sweta and Shruti helped me keep my scientific temper high.

I am thankful to Rajan ji, Khulve ji, Jayaprakash ji, Radheshayam ji, Khanna ji, Haleem ji, Ruchir for their cooperation during my research work. I specially wish to thank Rajan ji and Khulve ji for favoring me with their kind help in my time of need.

I am thankful to the members of MSB Division- Dr. Amogh, Dr. Sushma, Ramesh, Ambrish, Anant, Raza, Raghu, Subir, Satish, Santharam, Prabodh, Ranjit, Kulwant, Parul, Aqeel, Richa, Brijesh, Priyanka, Timir, Amit, Shuja, Sarvind, Tripti, Gauri, Divya, Vandana, Sravan, Swapnil, Rishi, Gaya, Reshmi, Bijay, Ashutosh, Uzma. I specially express my gratefulness to Dr. Sohail who has always given me a helping hand whenever needed. My colleagues from the other divisions of CDRI- Rajeev, Mayadutt, Ashutosh, Ashok, Saurabh, Rit, Alok, Dr. Parvez, Vikash, Vinay, and Manish are acknowledged.
The financial support in terms of fellowship provided by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, is gratefully acknowledged.

Daily lab core helps from Arvind, Rinku and Deepak are also acknowledged.

My sincere appreciation goes to the entire CDRI faculty and the staff members who were very helpful when approached.

I am highly grateful to my friends Rahul, Gyanendra, Ashok, Rajeev, Sanjeev, Satendra, Anubha, Manoj, Vishnu, Nidhi and Akhilesh who offered their invaluable support to achieve my goal. I am thankful to Neelam for her encouragement and cooperation which make to cope with all odd situations during the completion of this work.

My sincere most gratitude goes to my parents for their blessings, devotion, sacrifice and constant encouragement during my research period. I have the pleasure of acknowledging Shruti and Surbhi for their constant support, love and inspiration during my research work.

No task can be accomplished without the help and blessings of God; it is the grace of Almighty that I have successfully completed the work.

[Himanshu Agrawal]