

## *Acknowledgements*

*I am thankful to my research supervisor, Dr. Ulhas K. Kharul for providing me an opportunity to pursue my carrier as a Ph.D. student and offering valuable suggestions and encouragement in more stressful times. He taught me useful skills for research work as well as technical writing during the course of work. I consider myself to be fortunate that I got an opportunity to work under his guidance.*

*I am grateful to Dr. S. Sivaram, Director, NCL, Dr. B. D. Kulkarni, Deputy Director, NCL and Dr. M. G. Kulkarni, Head, Polymer Science and Engineering Division for giving me the opportunity to work in this prestigious institute and help during various stages of my stay at NCL.*

*It gives me great pleasure to thank Prof. G. P. Agarwal (IIT, Delhi), Dr. S. P. Vernekar, Dr. P. P. Wadgaonkar, Dr. W. P. Harkare, Dr. (Mrs.) J. P. Jog, Dr. (Mrs.) Mayadevi, Mr. A. S. Patil, Mr. A. B. Gaikwad, Dr. K. R. Patil, Mr. K. V. Pandare, Dr. Suresh Bhat, Mrs. Dhoble, Mrs. Anuya, Miss. Aarti and Mr. Vivek Borkar for their guidance, valuable suggestions and allowing me to facilities.*

*My thanks are duly acknowledged to CSIR, New Delhi for valuable support in the form of a Senior Research Fellowship.*

*I feel proud to have closest friends Dr. Yogesh and Santosh who motivated me to do my work and shared in my happiness as well as in sorrows. Their contribution is unforgettable. I am fortunate to have Ms. Urvashi as my room partner whose caring and helpful nature made my stay in hostel comfortable and memorable. I would like to thank my friends Geeta, Sadhana, Vaishali, Vidya, Hema, Hemalata, Vrunda, Preeti, Shweta, Minakshi, Manisha, Suvarna, Sachin, Vijay, Dr. Rahul, Dr. Santosh Wanjale, Aniruddha, Suyog and Muthu. At this moment I can not forget all my lab members Savita, Sandeep, Yogesh Chendake, Manoj Achalapurkar, Shubhangi, Mrunal, Soumya, Prerna, Manoj Patil, Alkesh, Rupesh and Yogesh with whom I spent nice time and I am thankful to them for their co-operation. I would like to mention special thanks to Mr. Soraj Singh for his assistance during my work.*

*It would have been impossible to complete my work without the love, patience and constant encouragement from my parents, sister Anuradha, brother Dinesh. Finally, I would like to thank Sudhir for his support and patience.*