Acknowledgements

With a deep sense of gratitude, I wish to acknowledge guidance and training received from Dr. R Nagaraj. He has not only introduced me to the field of peptides, but taught me to analyze every data in a new light. His speed of correcting my thesis in a short time span is admirable.

I wish to thank sincerely my lab mates who have helped in various ways. Bhikshapathy with his technical expertise and experience has been a great help during peptide synthesis and conducting other experiments. Sivakama Sundari has been an excellent friend and advisor at toughest times. Krishnakumari and Subbalakshmi had been always helpful from my initial days. Talking to Purna Sai and Dhopleji has been always pleasant. Timely help received from Sivakama Sundari and Purna during my last moment compiling of thesis is deeply acknowledged.

I thank MV Jagannadham for synthesizing few of the BNBD-12 analogs. I am also grateful to Dr. M. Vairamani, IICT for taking keen interest in discussing various Mass Spectroscopic techniques in detail. He was always available for analysis of peptide samples and even allowed me to handle the MALDI-tof Mass Spectrometer. Dr. Sashi Singh has been very helpful with Electron Microscopic studies.

Dr. N. M. Rao, Dr. Purnima Bhargava, Dr. Somdatta Sinha, Dr. K. Majumdar and Dr. N. Sitaram has been always nice to talk with. Suvendu had been very helpful in tissue culture experiments and even otherwise also. People in West Wing IInd floor past and present especially MP Singhji, Chetanaji, Rajkumar, Sashi, Vijaya, Mala, Mercy, George, Tapan, Priyamvada, Sushma, Sonali, Sharada, Harish and Pallavi had been nice friends. Discussions in "Amphiphile" group meetings are memorable.

I acknowledge the present director Dr. Lalji Singh and past directors for providing the most updated facilities in CCMB and creating an environment conducive for research. I deeply acknowledge Prof. D. Balasubramaniam for his enthusiasm towards research and even time spent with his family during festivals are always memorable. Life in new hostel had been marvellous.
Giridharan had been very helpful in drawing the figures and with the colour xeroxes. I thank Mallesh and Prakash for xeroxing my thesis neatly.

Assistance received from Sattaiah, Sadanand and Chandramohan is greatly acknowledged.

Words are not sufficient to describe the support, love and encouragement given to me by my mother and father. Their fantastic capability to understand me and advise accordingly sailed me through all the hardships. Shankho, with his calm nature has always inspired me to show patience. My in-laws have been extra supportive to me during the course of this study. Finally, I am deeply touched by Kaushik who stood by me in every possible manner. Life would have been tough without his support, caring and love.