Acknowledgements

With deep sense of gratitude, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Rajiv Bhat for introducing me to the fascinating topic of protein folding and later encouraging me to carry out the project on it. Stimulating discussions with him not only helped in this work but also made me more confident in the subject. His constant encouragement, support and friendly nature made it possible to complete this project.

I am extremely thankful to Prof. Robert Seckler to provide me an opportunity to work in his laboratory at University of Potsdam, Germany. His continuous interest in this project, critical analysis of results and suggestions were extremely helpful for completion of this project. It was a great experience to learn from him which will have a deep impact in my future academic career.

I am thankful to Dr. Ulrich Baxa for helping me to initiate the work on P22 Tailspike protein. He was always there whenever I faced problems from spectrometers to the computer. My heartiest thanks to Monika Walter for helping me in experimentation especially toward the end and in graphic analysis.

I would like to thank chairperson CBT, Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar for his cooperation and help during entire study period. I am also thankful to all other faculty members of CBT for their help and cooperation from time to time.

I would like to express my thanks to my lab mates Ashutosh, Prasanna, Dr. I.B. Jha, Anu, Neeraj, Ajay, Sudhakaran and Gaurav Das for making a cordial atmosphere and providing invaluable help at different times. Thanks to Ashutosh for all his suggestions and help during the early period of the study. Special thanks to Prasanna for supporting in tough times during my study period.

It was a wonderful experience to work in Germany and credit goes to my lab mates at Potsdam. My sincere thanks to Prof. Wolfgang Pfeil for his help and suggestions. Thanks to Uli, Moni, Frank, Alex, Shyamasri, Steffi, Sweta, Mandy and Jana for their ever helping hands and the nice company during “Kaffe and Kuchen” with them.

A very special thanx to Gaurav Pandey not only for giving the final shape to the thesis but also providing a nice company during tea breaks. I shall be ever grateful for all his help.

Thanks to my CBTians Vikas, Palash, Saurabh, Aruna, Sarita, Aparna, Vibha, Samer, Praveen, Alli, Poonam, Jayita, Yogi, Khushoo and all those who helped me in some or other way and made my stay in JNU enjoyable. Outside CBT, it was my friends Sanjay at IITD and Jagdish in SES with whom I shared nice times.

I am thankful to Biswajit and Naipalji for their help and assistance. I would like to acknowledge the center for Biotechnology Office Staff for giving prompt help at all the times.

It is very difficult to express my emotions toward my parents, and all my family members for their love, care and moral support.

Financial support provided by University Grant Commission and German Academic exchange Service (DAAD) is gratefully acknowledged.

Rajesh Mishra