Acknowledgments

Any project of long duration cannot be accomplished by a single person. This is very true about research program leading to a Ph.D degree which essentially requires cooperation and help from large number of professionals and non professionals. Just after Master's degree one is a novice in terms of carrying out a research project independently on a subject which is on the forefront. Moreover, a thrust area becomes difficult to follow where a lot of data is present but lack a general consensus on the philosophy of the subject. Protein structure, folding, and their relation to biological function and stability is one such area. In this thesis an attempt to understand the mechanism of thermostabilization of enzymes has been made. It would not have been possible to carry out the work without a sincere and unconditional help provided by my friends, my family and most importantly my research supervisor Dr. Rajiv Bhat. I am overwhelmed to express my gratitude to Dr. Bhat for introducing me to the science of proteins, suggesting the topic for research work, his constant moral boosting, liberal discussions, suggestions, and encouragement to think and work independently with strong backup. I am also privileged to be his first Ph.D student, which has given me ample scope to interact with him quite frequently.

I feel privileged to have a battery of friends always charged to provide their professional hand and ingenuity of mind to carry out this work. Prominent among them are Vani, Ashutosh and Darshan. I will always remember Vani for being a constant source of encouragement to work hard. She also deserves my sincere thanks for carrying out some crucial experiments. Param, Deo, Kamakhya, Bru and Umesh have provided wonderful company and extended their help whenever asked for. Discussions with Suparna has enriched my knowledge in the area of protein stability. Sridevi, Juhi and Sharmishtha will always be in my fond memory for their timely help, scintillating discussions and their vivacity. I thank Monika for encouraging and extending her generous help whenever required.

I register my gratitude for suggestions and invaluable time provided by Prof. Faizan Ahmad. Discussions with him have helped me in understanding the vital concepts of the subject in a clearer way.

Facility provided to carry out densitymetric experiments by Prof. J.C. Ahluwalia at I.I.T. Delhi is sincerely acknowledged. I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Sudha Mahajan and Andrew Lynn for their cooperation in carrying out the CD experiments in C.I.F., S.L.S. Pains taken by Dr. D.R. Shukla in writing an algorithm for calculating the thermodynamic parameters from experimental data is humbly acknowledged.
I am thankful to Dr. B.R. Yadav and Dr. V.K. Batish for their utmost cooperation. Constant encouragement by Abhijit and Sachi, my colleagues at NDRI Karnal is sincerely acknowledged.

A constant and untiring help and moral support provided by all the members of my family especially my parents and sister-in-laws is ultra-vires of my power of expression. My parents have been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement all these years.

I will always cherish the memory of my association with Shrikant in the initial days of my Ph.D. for being a friend and a well-wisher, and his wife Ritushree for making me feel at home in this very campus. Luxurious accommodation and numerous help provided by Ashu is beyond my power of expression. This thesis is conspicuous with his impressions.

I record my sincere thanks to Darshan who took up the arduous job of punching the text inspite of his busy life. I also thank my friends Kamakhya and Dr. Mahesh Dutt for assisting me in the data entry.

The financial support in terms of fellowship provided by J.N.U. has helped me to carry out the research work

I joined for Master's course at C.B.T., J.N.U in 1988. These nine long years have instilled in me strong emotions for J.N.U. and JNU community especially CBT. The vast open lush greenery littered with seasoned rocky patches signifying a peaceful but vibrant nature of JNU among which stands a grand architectural opus in tough red bricks effusing typical JNU culture has left a strong imprint of the society and culture on my mind. It is the only sole witness to such a slow but calcareous changes which though unavoidable are in rhythm with time welcoming and engrossing one and all, never saying au revoir because one leaves but with a stamp of JNU culture, a permanent tattoo on ones mind for ever.

Jai Kumar