Acknowledgements

I hereby give myself the privilege of offering my heartfelt indebtedness to my esteemed supervisor Prof. Nishith Kumar Pal, Department of Microbiology, Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (IPGME&R, Kolkata), for his inexhaustible guidance over the years, diligent supervision, untiring efforts and valuable suggestions throughout the entire period of the study. The amendments he made in my thesis have taught me the importance of the quality of work. I shall ever remain grateful to him for inspiring me to go for this research work and constantly boosting my confidence level at every phase of my research work. Thank you Sir, for your guidance, input and persistent efforts over the period of time. Without your guidance and encouragement this thesis would not have come to its finale.

I am highly grateful to my joint supervisor Prof. Subrata Majumdar Department of Molecular Medicine. Bose Institute, whose constructive ideas, technical help, invaluable suggestions and active involvement helped me immensely during the course of research.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Prof. (Dr.) Subir Kumar Dey, National Medical College and Hospital Kolkata for his active interest, kind cooperation and providing samples and his laboratory facilities during my research work.

I express my deepest sense of gratitude to Prof. Basudev Bhattacharyya, Department of Biochemistry, Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and research (IPGME&R) for his constant mental support and providing his laboratory facilities during my research work.

I am very much grateful to Dr. Satadal Das, Peerless Hospital & B. K. Roy research Center for his valuable support and constant encouragement. Without his support it was impossible for me to complete my thesis.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge Mr. Avranil Goswami, Dr. Surangana Saha Khan and Dr. Tapajyoti Mukherjee Department of Microbiology Department, Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (IPGME&R), Ms Sibali Das and my lab mates of Prof.
Majumdar’s lab (Bose institute), Imran Hussain Chowdhury (Department of Biochemistry, IPGMER&R) for their crucial support, enthusiastic approach, constructive comments and wise scientific suggestions.

In this journey the person who has always motivated and inspired me the most is none other than my friend Bisakha Roy, and am very much blessed to have her as my friend.

I would take this opportunity to express thanks to the all the faculty members of department of Microbiology, Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (IPGME&R), Kolkata, for their support, kindness and encouragement throughout my research work.

However, in this journey I was not alone and there are some people who made this journey easier with words of inspiration and support. The arduous task of pursuing a doctoral programme of study and research would not have been possible without the constant support of my lab colleagues. It is a great pleasure to acknowledge the constant assistance, co-operation and enthusiastic association received from my friends, juniors and seniors, which enable me to reach at the end of my research work.

I sincerely acknowledge Department of Atomic Energy, Bhaba Atomic research Center, Govt of India for providing financial support to pursue this research work.

Urmita Chakraborty

Department of Microbiology

Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (IPGME&R)
Kolkata - 700020