Acknowledgement

This thesis owes its existence to the help, support, and inspiration of several people. Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my guide Dr. Chandana Barat. Her guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis. This work would not have been possible without her guidance, support and encouragement. She taught me how to uncover a scientific problem by logical thinking and by hard efforts. Her vision and scientific approach would be my precious guide for the days to come.

I am specially acknowledged the St.Xavier’s College, Kolkata for providing me the infrastructure facility and the appropriate work place for my Ph.D. work. I sincerely acknowledge the Department of Biotechnology, St.Xavier’s College for providing me the friendly academic work space.

I am thankful to Prof. Chanchal Kumar Dasgupta, who has been a constant source of encouragement and enthusiasm. He had the gift of only seeing the best in people. I have spent so many memorable hours with him to learn how to love science. I am also thankful to all the laboratory member of Sir for their support.

I would like to convey thanks to Dr. Jayati Sengupta for her extensive support and valuable scientific discussion during my experimentation in her laboratory.
I am also thankful to Prof. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay and Dr. Kaustubh Panda of the Biotechnology Department, University of Calcutta for their support. I am grateful to Dr. Sagarmoy Ghosh of the Microbiology Department, University of Calcutta to allow me doing ultra centrifugation there as well as helping me with whatever needed for the work.

I am grateful for getting support from Department of Biotechnology, University of Calcutta; Department of Microbiology, University of Calcutta; Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata; Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, Bose Institute, Kolkata.

I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Uma Siddhanta, Dr. Sudipa Saha, Dr. Aniruddha Banerji, Dr. Jhimli Dasgupta, Dr. Dipankar Chakraborti, Dr. Aryadeep Roy Choudhury, Dr. Ronita Nag Chaudhuri, Dr. Priyanka De and Souvik Roy and the staff member of Department of Biotechnology, St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata.

My greatest gratitude goes to Debasisda for his endless helping nature. My special thanks go to Jaydeepda for his encouragement and moral support.

I would like to thank Maitree, Upal, Sanjay, Gourab, Sriparna, Arnab, Sonia, Anagh, Sourav, Saikat, Aheli, Puja and Shubhangi for their valuable help provide friendly atmosphere in the department. I am also thankful to my lab junior Senjuti who patiently revised my thesis twice.

I would like to mention specially late Akalida in this list.
My greatest thanks go to my friend and roommate Somenath for his constant support, inspiration, advice and love. I have spent so many wonderful moments with him. I would never forget all the chat and beautiful moments I shared with my good friends Bipro and Manidip. I would like to thanks to my friend Rupam for his support and advice. I want to acknowledge Sayan.

My special thanks go in particular to Surojit with whom I shared my laboratory and many rounds of discussions of my research with him helped me a lot. He is the fundamental in supporting me during these stressful and difficult moments. Some of the important experiments described in this thesis would not have been possible without his help.

Financial assistance provided by the CSIR and DST to me is gratefully acknowledged.

No word seems to be enough to acknowledge my parents, behind all my failures I knew that they would be there with their untiring support. My elder brother Asis, sister in law Tamasree and my grandfather also encouraged me all the time. I want to acknowledge Madhu, Deep, Somnath and Mou for their interest in my research work.

At the end I would like to express appreciation and thanks to my beloved wife Mousumi who was always my support through the good and bad times to cheering me up.

I sign off by acknowledging all my near and dear ones whom I could not mention due to lack of space. Thank you all.

(BANI KUMAR PATHAK)