ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Today, as I stand on the verge of completing my doctoral work, I feel compelled to acknowledge the momentous support I have received throughout my academic career from people from all realms of my life without whom it would not have been possible to complete this enormous task.

First and foremost I would like to thank my PhD supervisor Dr. Mrinal Kanti Ghosh for giving me the opportunity to work in his laboratory. These few years have been a tremendous learning experience with lots of struggle and new beginnings and I will always remember the kind of support and facility that he has provided throughout my tenure for the successful completion of my work. I would also take this opportunity to thank Dr. Susanta Roychoudhury especially for letting me use his cell culture facility for the initial two years and other laboratory facilities all the way through my work; Dr. Subhas C. Biswas, Dr. H. K. Majumder, Dr. Samit Adhya and Dr. Suvendra Nath Bhattacharyya for providing the necessary laboratory facilities whenever required.

Prof. Siddhartha Roy, former Director, CSIR-IICB, Dr. Chitra Mandal, Head, Cancer Biology and Infectious Disorder Department and the CSIR-IICB office staff also deserve special acknowledgement for ensuring a well-maintained working environment in CSIR-IICB. CSIR has awarded me with fellowship for the duration of my tenure and I am thankful to them for this. I also appreciate the CSIR-IICB club for ensuring regular recreation from our routine work.

I would fail in my duty if I do not thank my teachers who have taught me the essence of scientific approach from very early on in my life. Dr. Cicy Roy Mathew,
Pranab K. Mukherjee, Dr. Partha Roy and Dr. Bijan Choudhury deserve special mention for sustaining in me the quest for research in biology. Their insightful teachings have enabled me to pursue scientific research and follow in their foot-prints.

I am indebted to the Department of Biotechnology, University of Calcutta and members of my PhD. Committee who have patiently evaluated my work and provided the necessary insights which have helped me to enrich my work.

Research in today’s fast-paced world would not have been possible without the help of the online open source communities who have provided us with free access to softwares and research materials in the easiest possible way. Likewise, timely availability of chemical reagents ensured by Patelda (Patelchem de Drugs), Pavan da (Kanika Enterprise) and Shibuda (S. K. Enterprise) among others have gone a long way in completing my lab work and I cannot help but be thankful to them.

A conducive environment is needed for carrying out productive research work and I am grateful to my fellow lab members for always providing me with the requisite ambience in the lab. Seemana has been my proverbial “lab-sister”, thanks for being there for me in times of need, despair and joy. Indranil, Arijit, Anirban, Feroj, Nilanjana, Moumita, Satamita, Rajni, Veenita, Neerajana and Aaroni- thanks for all the good and bad times that we spent together. Babaida and Seemadi – you have been immensely helpful. Seniors and friends from other labs – Taraswidi, Swatidi, Somsubhrada, Agneyada, Somdebda, Tania and Souvik – thanks for all the help. Anupamda and Anushila also deserve special thanks for helping me with the confocal imaging and FACS work. My heartfelt thanks also go out to all my colleagues in CSIR-IICB who have made working here enjoyable.
My parents, in-laws and husband have been my pillars of strength particularly during these tremulous few years of doctoral work. My gratitude towards them is immense for keeping their faith in me and my work. Dipak, Ritu, Dipu – thanks for always encouraging me and tolerating my mood swings and my entire family for being there for me through the ups and downs of life.

In the end I would like to thank The Almighty for instilling in me the good sense to understand my challenges and the courage and strength required to tackle them.

Tapashi Mandal