ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the people who have been instrumental in the completion of my Ph.D. Thesis.

The true hallmark of a teacher is his ability to distinguish between a necessary and an unnecessary hypothesis. It is my extreme good fortune to be associated with my research guide, Dr. Prabhudas S. Patel, Head, Cell Biology Division, Head, Bio Chemistry Research Division, The Gujarar Cancer & Research Institute (GCRI) Ahmedabad. He has quality of moulding a raw and incoherent student of science into a coherent and highly pragmatic researcher. His positive criticism, perseverance and tolerance have led my research work to this stage. I shall always be grateful for his constant guidance, which has given a new perspective to my career.

I am sincerely grateful to Dr. Pankaj M. Shah, Director, GCRI for permitting me for Ph.D. work and providing the state of art facilities at GCRI.

I am very thankful to Dr. Shilin N. Shukla, Deputy Director-Research and Education, GCRI, for his wholehearted support and motivation to build my career.

I am also thankful to Dr. Kirti M. Patel, Deputy Director-Medical services, GCRI for his constant support.

I express my gratitude to Dr. Sonal R. Bakshi, former Senior Scientific Officer and Head, Cell Biology Division for her help and suggestions.

No words will suffice to express proper heartfelt gratitude towards my special friend and colleague, Ms. Manisha Brahmbhatt, for her invariable support in my each and every work.

I am also thankful to Prof. Vishnu Prakash, former Head, Bio-chemistry Department and Principle, C.U. Shah Science College, Ahmedabad, for his motivation; which led me to take deep interest in research field.

I am also thankful to Esha Dalal for helping me in my day to day work. She supported me and stood besides me during the work.

I am thankful to Dharmesh Patel and Sejal Purani my colleagues in Cell Biology Division for their help. I am also thankful to Zarna and Mruga, who
helped in my work. I also thank my former colleagues Dr. Beena Patel, Sarju Gajjar, Ramesh Iyer and Mayur Joshi for helping me at various stages of the work.

I am also thankful to Premajibhai, Late Dushyantbhai and Manaharbhai.

I am thankful to all the staff members of Department of Medical Oncology, Department of Pathology and Case Registry Department for their help.

I must thank Mr. Nareshbhai Shah and all other staff members in GCRI library for their support in literature search during the work.

Parents are one of the most fundamental and inspirational sources at each stage of my academic carrier. Today, where I am is due to my parents, I take this opportunity to dedicate this thesis to my parents; my father Harshavadan I. Shukla and my mother Dharmishtha H. Shukla, who always inspired me for higher study and provided environment for that. They had given me the opportunity for getting education from the best institutions and supported throughout my life. I also thank my sister Deval Shukla for her silent best wishes throughout my journey of Ph.D. work. I would be failing in my duties as a sister, if I would not thank my elder brother Himanshu Shukla and my sister in law Jigisha Shukla for their support in fulfilling my dream. I am thankful to my mother in-law, Smt. Nirmala B. Trivedi for supporting me throughout the work, which made the journey very pleasant.

I express my gratitude to my husband Mr. Jignesh Trivedi for his moral support and marvelous help. He has always maintained positive pressure on me for pursuance of Ph.D. My special thank to little but very mature son Yash for his innocent understanding of my work, and granting me to remain busy with my work and always helping in my routine homework.

Last, but not least, I pray for the patients for their well being without whom, this work would not have been completed.

I thank all my well wishers, who knowingly or unknowingly would have helped in completing my thesis.

(Pma J. Trivedi)  