Acknowledgements

All's well that ends! It gives me an immense sense of relief to finally present this thesis with all its novelty and limitations. Of all the innumerable people that have in some way or the other helped me out in reaching this milestone, I would acknowledge a handful, bound as I am by the limitations of these A4 sheets.

I thank Dr. S. Swaminathan for letting me in his lab; for teaching me the fine nuances of molecular biology, especially adenovirus construction and tissue culture; for being patient and open to all my novice ideas and for giving the final shape to this thesis. Thank you Sir for sharing your knowledge with me.

I thank Dr. Navin Khanna, Group leader, RGP, for providing me with all I needed in my experimentations, for inculcating a sense of belonging in all of us & above all for giving the gentle push that was needed at the most crucial of times.

I thank Dr. Anand Ranganathan, for showing us his lighter side (figuratively); for all his wisecracks; for those hearty laughs at the bleakest of times. May you Sir, find the same joy in your son.

I thank Prof. V. S. Chauhan, Director, ICGEB, for giving me the opportunity that has enabled me to present this thesis today.

I thank Dr Chandra Mouli, Head, animal house facility for helping me out with the animal experiments.

I thank CSIR for the most needed scholarship, in the form of JRF and SRF fellowships.

I thank the technical staff at ICGEB- Ashok, Rakesh and Jobi for all their support and assistance. Most especially I would like to thank Joginder for his immaculate skills in keeping the lab from going to pieces.

I thank all my batchmates for those initial moments of fun and laughs during the course work.
I thank my friends Sanchita, Vaibhao, Suchita, Ruchi, Anuja, Dharmendra, Moin, Dheeraj, Sandeep and Nurul, for all the laughter......all the music......all the food ......and all the life we have shared together.

I thank my seniors Meghna, Dipti, Himani and Sidharth, for all their timely helps, especially during the initial days of learning the ropes; for all their experiences they shared with me, professional or otherwise.

I thank the members of RGP lab Rajendra, Rajesh, Geetaram, Kris, Menaka, Poornima, Shekhar, Behzad, Talha, Gaurav, Asma, Mitaly and Jatin for all the time shared together.

I thank all my friends- very good ones and the not-so-good ones and the ones long-forgotten and the ones often-remembered, for all the joy, no matter how ephemeral, but still a joy.

I thank my father: for that kind hand that pats my back and reassures me of my own competence and strength and for the giant shoulder I can always fall back on.

My mother: for being the most innocuous person I have ever seen and for all her 'silent prayers'.

My brother and sister: for all the growing-up years of fun, laughter, fights, cries and hugs.

My parents-in-law: for their love and acceptance.

My husband: for supporting me all this while; for putting up with me through all the stress and all the cries; for being the fountainhead of love and joy ....and on a more pragmatic note: for driving me all the way to the lab, all these years....even if it meant an extra 50 km each day! I thank you for all the positivity and the smile that greets me each day! I thank you for letting me be a part of your life.

Saima Khanam