Acknowledgement

At the very outset I express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt reverence to Dr. Krishna Das Saha, Cancer Biology and Inflammatory Disorder Division, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata and Prof. Tarun Jha, Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Jadavpur University for their constant inspiration, invaluable guidance, constructive criticism and useful scientific suggestions throughout the course of my research work. I am grateful to Dr. Chitra Mandal, Director, and Prof. Siddhartha Roy, Ex Director of CSIR- I.I.C.B Kolkata, for providing me all the necessary facilities to carry out this work.

I shall always remain grateful to Dr. J. Rajan Vedasiromoni, Registrar - NIPER Kolkata, Dr. Basudev Achari, former Emeritus Scientist and Dr. Shyamal Roy, Senior Principal Scientist, Infectious Diseases & Immunology Division and Head of the Academic division of our Institute for their constant valuable suggestions and inspiration during my research work.

Special thanks to Subhadip Das, Dipayan Bose, Rudra Narayan Munda and Somenath Banerjee for the memorable good times spent during this period. I consider myself privileged to have worked with all my lab colleagues including Sumit Kumar Dey, Abhishek Nandy, Anupam Das, Sujata Das, Mriganka Mondal, Sumana Malluick and am indebted to all my lab juniors for their cooperation and assistance. Thanks to the people who heartily integrated me in their group at IICB. Thanks to my friends Maitreyee, Rinku, Dipak, Indranil, Samir, Amit and seniors including Niladri da, Udayan da, George da, Debdut Da for continuous help and support at all times during my work.

I express my sincerest gratitude and due respects to my parents, dibhai, elder sister, bhai da, younger brother and nephew whose constant inspiration and encouragement helped me a lot to complete this work.

Financial assistance from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-India and Indian Council of Medical Research are thankfully acknowledged.

Finally, thanks to all concerned who directly or indirectly extended their generous help to me.

Nabanita Chatterjee