ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

After all these years, I've got quite a list of people who contributed in some way to this thesis, for which I would like to express thanks.

My parents, for all their sacrifices and for creating an environment in which following this path seemed so natural.

Prof. Rajiv Saxena, my Supervisor, for the enthusiasm and inspiration, which was always there when I needed it. And the penetrating criticism which made me strive for better.

Saubiya, Tuhina, Sanjay and Hemant for being such wonderful labmates.

My seniors who have already left and paved the path for me to aim high.

Asmita for being the best of friends and for the many discussions on how to get Mycobacteria to behave in my thesis.

Niti for specific help on everything, right from handling of cell to chromatography. Zaved for teaching me how to deal with mycobacterial culture and Nagarjun for being always helpful with flow cytometry despite his daunting schedule.

I sincerely want to express my thanks to Naresh, Govinda and Thadeus whose help in the lab has been invaluable.

Sagar and Sangeeta for some very special moments when the going was tough. Sagar, in the box of chocolates called life you have been the best nut I came across, tough and with a lingering sweetness.

Madhuda for being there with lots of "wise" words and path breaking "fundas". Aurnab and Mayurika for all the "smuggled" chemicals and online 'cerebral' discussions.

Tapasda for being the mirror who showed me what I am and was capable of when I was down and out and having an enormous amount of faith in me.

Sumantra for the endless political debates and historical discussions to liven up the dull days.

Piyas, 'Everybody Hurts' except you. As we journeyed from the realm of morbidity and blues to one were hope reigns supreme, you were always there; 'dart'ing through my remembrances.

Sumanda and Jayantidi for their support and much needed advice.
Prof. Sipra Guha Mukherjee, Prof. N.P. Mukherjee, Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Prof. P.K. Yadava, Prof. Asis Datta, Prof. Kasturi Datta, Prof. Alok Bhattacharya and Prof. Sudha Bhattacharya for their kind words of encouragement.

A word of thanks is due to Mr. Alexander, Mr. Khan, Mr. Sharma and Mr. Mishra, the other CIF staff and animal house staff for their help during the course of this work.

I also wish to thank Dr. Aruna Mittal of Institute of Pathology for providing me her laboratory facilities.

I wish to acknowledge UGC for financial assistance.

I shall always cherish the hearty moments I spent here in SLS with my batch mates and cheerful juniors.

And then there are all the other people who have made JNU a very special place over all those years: Madhumita, Sir, Nandan, Tinku, Madhuda, Bond, Sourav, Saugata, Supriyo, Joy, Judge, Balu, Avishek, Baidik, Mallarika, Pado, Bachha, Buiya, Jogaa/Deepa, Bhaduri/Simi, Maneesha, Aniruddha, Banhi, Rajdeep, Captain, Sundaram, Monika and all the others who have passed through.

I am grateful to my in-laws for being so supportive.

Monideepa, "science" and "life" beyond science would not have been so beautiful if you were not there........

Thank God it's over!