Acknowledgements

Destiny is predecided and everyone gets its share when right time comes. God has deputed 'special' people to act as their mentors. At the outset, I am highly indebted to 'Almighty' for instilling in me the strength and perseverance to reach this destination.

It is my profound privilege to express my sincere thanks to my supervisor Prof. Rakesh Kumar Mahajan, Department of Chemistry, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, for his invaluable guidance, liberal attitude and encouragement during the research work. His intellectual precision and insightful inspiration proved immensely helpful for me to complete my thesis work.

I wish to convey my thanks to Prof. B.S. Randhawa, Head, Department of Chemistry, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, for providing me necessary facilities to accomplish my research work smoothly.

I am extremely thankful to all the teaching staff and non-teaching staff for their constant help and perceptive cooperation.

I consider it a privilege to express my gratitude to Dr. P.A. Hassan and Dr. V.K. Aswal, Bhabha atomic research centre, Mumbai, for giving me space in their research lab to complete a considerable part of my work.

I would also like to thank my senior friends and labmates, Dr. Kulwinder Kumar Vohra, Dr. Arifa Shaheen, Rabia, Suruchi, Reshu, Rajwinder, Ajar, Shruti and Renu for their help and cooperative nature during this work.

My heart-felt thanks go to my husband Dr. Rajiv Kumar Puri who has always strengthened me with his moral and emotional support. With his cooperation, I am able to finish this task.

Words are not sufficient to acknowledge for being highly indebted to my parents, my brothers Rahul, Ankush, sister Monika, sister-in-law Jyoti and brother-in-law Shabad for their everlasting encouragement, blessings and moral support. They have backed me in every situation, without their encouragement and moral support this would not have been easy. I also like to thank my in laws especially my brother-in-law Sanjeev and Gaurav for the support to reach this destination. Lastly, I like to thank the loving kids Alaina, Pranav and Smriti for making the times happier outside the lab.

Financial assistance from UGC-SAP and CSIR, New Delhi is greatly acknowledged.

(Durgesh Nandni)