ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdullilah, in this journey I found a lot many people who co-operated and helped. This acknowledgement is just a reminder that they will never be forgotten. My apologies to anyone whom I fail to mention.

The deepest gratitude I owe to “the man at the helm”, Dr. Yogendra Singh for being an excellent mentor and supervisor. His down to earth nature and intellectual honesty are the qualities I shall always strive to emulate. His meticulous suggestions, unbound zeal and wholehearted support to design experiments on my own and take independent decisions helped me to develop clear perception and better understanding of research. To have worked with him and learned from him in itself has been a thoroughly rewarding experience.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Souvik Maiti for his guidance in the biophysical experiments, which form an important part of my thesis. His useful suggestions and innovative ideas helped me in better understanding of my work.

I would like to thank Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari DG-CSIR and acting Director Dr K.C. Gupta for allowing me to pursue my research interest and providing “state of art” facilities at IGIB.

I would also like to thank Dr. V.C. Kalia, Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. B. Taneja, Dr. Abhay Sharma, Dr. Beena Pillai and Dr. L.S. Meena, who put and accelerated their scientific intellect in me through different means.

I am immensely indebted to my seniors in the lab, Azeet and Gyan with whom I shared my views, suggestions and some of the most thought provoking and intellectually stimulating discussions. Azeet’s valuable suggestions and a helping attitude always made me turn back to him. It is my pleasure to extend deep sense of gratitude to my labmates Abhishek, Andaleeb, Asani, Gunjan, Geeta Ram, Jameel, Meetu, Pawan, Preeti, Preetida, Raj, Richa, Santosh and Dr. Rekha for their unforgettable help and encouragement to do my best by providing a very homely conducive environment for work.

I am thankful to my good friend Amit Arora for his constant support and always being there to help.
A special thanks to Dr. M. Saif Zaman, for introducing me to the world of sporulation and helping me during my initial days in the lab.

I would also like to thank G.P. Singh for his helpful suggestions and constructive criticism. I acknowledge the help I got from the members of Lab Nos 205, 207, 211, 220, 303, 308, 411, 408, 508, 511, 512 and 604. Moreover, I acknowledge Upendra’s help in providing some of the basic requirements for my research work.

I am thankful to my seniors Dr. Harish Chandra, Dr. Pradeep K. Gupta, Dr. Puneet Chopra, Dr. Kirti Sharma, Dr. (Mr. & Mrs.) Adesh Saini, Dr. Renu Baweja and Dr. Anita Aggarwal for all their help and encouragement.

I feel obliged to acknowledge the contributions made by trainees Noor, Kusum and Prathistha, who were of great help in the execution of some the experiments described in this thesis.

I would like to thank Sarita Madam for her affection and encouragement.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge “Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India” for providing much needed financial support and IGIB staff for their cooperation.

My source of inspiration throughout this work has been my loving parents, whose faith in my abilities, infectious optimism and constant encouragement provided me strength to go on when times were really difficult. I value the sacrifices they have made for me and I thank them for all the prayers. I would like to thank my dearest brother, Hamid, for his consistent encouragement and his deep concern for my well being. I also thank all my near and dear ones whose prayers and good wishes have and will help me to accomplish my goals.

Abid R. Mattoo