ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At this cheerful occasion of my life, upon the successful completion of this work, I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all those people who have given me their time, concern, assistance and patience so generously and have made my research period in IGIB an ever cherished experience. Without their support and cooperation, it would not have been possible for me to complete my thesis. To me, my Ph.D. has been a metamorphosis in terms of both professional and personal abilities and these people who were attached to me have favored it at one or more crucial step.

First and foremost, I wish to thank The Almighty for granting me his blessings, without which nothing would have been possible.

It is due to the grace of The Almighty that I have been able to work under the amazing and kind supervision of my Guide Dr. M. A. Qadar Pasha, Scientist, IGIB. I express my deep sense of gratitude to him for his guidance, encouragement and freedom. His enthusiasm, dedication and scientific excitement have inspired me to think about Science. He has constantly supported and encouraged me in my success and failures. He has supported me both personally and professionally. I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my Ph.D. His perceptiveness, insightful conversations, optimism and dedication have greatly influenced me and expanded my scientific horizons. I am indebted to him for the qualities he has instilled in me. I will try my best to maintain and even improve this temperament of mine. They will be of immense help in my future endeavors. Dear Sir thanks a lot, though these words are an inadequate reflection of what I feel actually.

I want to express my deep sense of gratefulness to Dear Ma’m (Dr. Santosh Pasha, Scientist, IGIB), for all the scientific input she has provided. I am really thankful to her for the interest she has shown in few practical aspects and scientific discussions that enabled me to fulfill part of my research work. I cannot forget her caring attitude and homely concern at times of festivities, which I have enjoyed forever.

My thanks are due for Prof. SK Brahmacari, Ex Director, IGIB and Prof. K. C. Gupta, Director, IGIB, for providing the necessary environment for research and
diverse laboratory facilities. Their ability to analyze things in altogether different perspectives create curiosity in minds. I greatly acknowledge their contribution in shaping up IGIB and making it to be recognized and appreciated at a global platform.

Special vote of thanks is due to Dr. G.L. Sharma for his benevolence, support, encouragement and everlasting enthusiastic smile.

I would also like to acknowledge the other faculties at IGIB, viz., Dr. RH Das, Dr. HR Das, Dr. Balaram Ghosh, Dr. Abhay Sharma and Dr. Yogendra Singh for their support and encouragement. Dr. Mitali Mukerji is also acknowledged for the proficient usage of Sequencing and GeneScan facilities. Dr. Rekha Chaturvedi is also acknowledged for her critical and meaningful co-operations.

I wish to express my gratefulness to our collaborators Dr Bhawani Singh, Dr Desh Deepak and Dr Sunil, RML hospital, New Delhi for their co-operation with our scientific commences of COPD research. I am also thankful to respiratory unit staff of RML and volunteers for their incredible support during sample collection. For the high altitude research, I must not forget to acknowledge, the hospitality of Dr. Tsering Norboo, the most dedicated person, LHF, Leh, Ladakh and Mr. Md. Iqbal, SNM, hospital, Leh, Ladakh during our visits.

Thanks must also go to the staff of IGIB, especially Mr. Indrajeet, Mr. Bhardwaj, Mr. Negi, Mr. Arun, Mr. Mahimanand, Mr. Sharma, Mr. Mishra, Mr. Sanjay, Ms. Zarina, Ms. Ganju, Ms. Batra, Mr. Mukerji and our Administrative officer, Mr. Joshua were highly co-operative throughout my stay in IGIB. Special vote of thanks to Ms. Neelam Makhija for her kind cooperation for using the sequencing facility. The technical support provided by R.B. Ram Ji is also appreciated.

I wish to convey my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues. Their positive co-operation created an enjoyable atmosphere for me to work. Thanks to them for their companionship, encouragement and humorous nature. I have learned a lot from their special qualities. Dr Ehtesham, thank you so much for being an amazing colleague cum friend, and for cracking jokes and create light environment. Dr Azim, thank you a lot for being so understanding, providing spontaneous support and critical discussions. Jayashree, you deserve a special vote of thanks for your great knowledgeable company and cheering me up during stressful times. I am thankful to Manoj, for his systematic nature and support. Thank you Tsering for being so gentle and cheerful. Thanks a lot Rahul for providing me timely help. My sincere gratitude to Dr Amjad, Dr Aarif and Dr Karamjeet, my senior colleagues, for their apprehension and support. I want to express my special vote of thanks to Dr Charu for her extraordinary helping nature without that I could not imagine to complete my Ph.D. Thanks must also go to my junior colleagues Zahara, Amarjeet, Vikrant and Salman. I wish to thank Preeti, Richa and specially Raj for their wonderful company and timely support. Acknowledgements are also due for Dr Kashif, Dr Gopal, Krishna Sir, Manish, Bharat, Seema, Ramkumar, Santosh, Mahesh, Kshitij, Ishwar, Snehlata and Poonam for their support and cooperation.
When it comes to friends, soothing memories are always be cherished. I would like to say I am extremely fortunate to have the loving friends Mithu, Farzana, Kusum, Preeti and Ranjana with me. There are few extraordinary friends who have showed their personal concern on many instances and in fact their sensible approach towards life has always inspired me, one of them is Rakhi. They were the reasons for the upbringing of those extremely required smiles on my gloomy face many a times.

The period of Ph.D. involves an enriching experience in terms of both personal and professional growth. I express my sincere gratitude to my husband for his unforgettable support. I wish to convey my thanks to my in-laws for their wonderful support. I wish to thank my dearest sister and brother for providing a loving environment and support at every moment of my life. I wish them all the happiness in life. I am also thankful to Anupam bhaiya and Nupur bhabhi for their loving and caring support. Lastly, and most importantly, I wish to thank my parents who raised me, supported me, taught me and loved me. To them I dedicate this thesis.

The support of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for providing fellowship is greatly acknowledged.

Arpana Vibhuti