Acknowlegements

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my advisor Dr. Mahesh J Kulkarni, who is an endless source of enthusiasm and involvement towards research. He was of immense support throughout my stay at NCL, providing timely inputs in simplifying the research problems as well as difficult times. Apart from technical inputs he has given me throughout research, it was his simple and supportive nature that I have found very much fascinating. Thus, both the thesis and the author has benefitted tremendously from him. I consider myself fortunate to be able to work in his group and learn from his experiences.

I would like to thank my co-supervisor Dr. Ashok P Giri, for his generous help at various stages of my research work. I have a high regard for his approach towards research and his ideas.

I am grateful to the Director, Head of Department, Biochemical Sciences Division, CSIR-NCL, Pune for allowing me to access lab facilities to effectively carry out my research activities. I am thankful to Council of scientific and industrial research for the senior research fellowship.

My sincere thanks to Drs. H. V. Thulasiram (CSIR-NCL), Jomon Joseph (NCCS, Pune), Ramanamurthy Boppana (NCCS, Pune), Dr Kiran Kulkarni (CSIR-NCL, Pune) for their valuable technical inputs, help and facilities they provided, to make this work more meaningful. I also thank Drs Vidya Gupta and Narendra Kadoo for providing great support during my association with PMB (Plant and Molecular Biology Unit). I am also thankful to Dr. Muthuswamy Balasubramanyam for providing me clinical samples for my work.

I am highly thankful to Dr. B. Santhakurnari, Mr. Deo and Mrs. Sashikala Ranjane, for their help throughout. I especially thank Santhakumari M'am who was and continues to be a constant support, who stood beside me during all the difficult times for technical as well as moral support.

I must thank the office staff of Biochemical Sciences Division, Organic Chemistry Division, and Centre for Materials Characterization and Students Academic office, CSIR-NCL, which was always ready to help whenever required. Also, I am thankful to library staff and administrative staff of CSIR-NCL for co-operation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my warm gratitude to the volunteer diabetic and non-diabetic individuals for donating blood plasma samples for this study.
I am thankful to Ramanamurthy Sir, Sheikh Sir and all the staff of Experimental Animal Facility, NCCS Pune, who were kind, supportive and helpful during animal experiments.

My deepest thanks to Suresh Sir and Sandeep, who as helpful seniors and caring friends, have constantly supported me during all good and bad times, in lab. I express my heartfelt thanks to Sneha, who was with me in every aspect as a friend always and continues to be one till date. It’s my pleasure to acknowledge the constant support I received from Arati and Rubina, I am lucky for the wonderful friendship, and good times we have had together in NCL, may it be lab, hostel or the course work classes. I am grateful to Jagadeeshaprasad for his dedicated involvement and association in my work. He was with me especially during animal experiments and helped me in accomplishing the work satisfactorily. I thank all my present lab mates Reema, Yugendra, Rashmi, Shakuntala, Gouri, Kedar, Rajeshwari, Prachi, Akshay, Vinashya, Sharada, Amrita who have made my journey of NCL beautiful and filled with memorable moments. I would also like to extend my thanks to all my past lab mates Ashok Sir, Arvind, Hemangi, Swapnil, Santosh, Sachin, Vannur Swamy, Shrikant who all helped in one or the other way to grow and make my journey more meaningful.

I am thankful to all my friends of NCL-- Neha, Krithika, Shoen, Vishwanath, Avinash, Shiva, Jyoti, Anuja, Priyadarshini, Rakesh, Ajith Ranjekar, Ashish, Swati, Ketaki, Manasi, Kannan, Atul, Prabhakar, Rincy, Nilofer, Tanaya-- for their appreciable help whenever required without any expectations in return. I would especially mention that, with Neha I don’t just share a working relationship but also share an important bond which has given me the liberty to ask for help at any hour of the day and she has always been there for me. I would like to mention special thanks to Sheon for all the timely technical inputs during work. At the time of writing reviews and the book chapter which was fruitful and all the discussions may it be personal or professional we have had, has given me a friend in you. Special thanks to Vishwanath, fondly called as Vishwa, who has been a good friend and the time we spent together talking about many things from Kannada literature, Kannada cuisine to Kannada movies was always a much needed break from intense scientific routine.

I would like to mention my special thanks to Arati, Sheon, Akshay and Santhakumari m’am for taking time in proof reading my thesis and valuable inputs in making it better.

I express my sincere thanks to Ms Savita M Kulkarni, Mr. Y. Ramanjaneyulu, Mr Subhash Mishra and family and Mr Suresh Saitwadakar and family for providing me with homely atmosphere during my stay at NCL.
I am highly grateful to my professors at KUD and KCD, Drs. B M Swamy, Shahikala Inamdar, Hinchigeri, Aparna S, Manoj Kumar Nagasampige, C. G. Patil and Ravi Sir for always being inspirational, believing in my potential and encouraging me to pursue the career in research.

I feel fortunate to have Pradeep in my life, who is the best ever thing happened to me and turned out to be a friend and philosopher for lifetime. His dedication towards research, wide interests, may it be literature, places, movies or cooking, wit and wisdom have fascinated me. He has moulded my outlook as a whole. I am thankful to him for being there for me always.

Above all am indebted to my parents for their enormous support and belief on me. Without the encouragement and motivation of my father and constant support of my mother it was impossible for me to achieve this milestone in life. My most adorable baby sister Pavitra, even though who will remain just a kid for me always, has always been a friend. She has motivated me during my lowest phases to overcome it. Finally, my heartfelt thanks my in laws for being understanding and supportive towards me, even when I fail to give enough time to family.

There are a number of people who have supported me in many ways during my Ph. D. work; I am greatly indebted to everyone who helped me unconditionally to achieve this important milestone.

— Shweta Bhat