ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“People who uplift you are the best kind of people.
You don’t simply keep them. You have to treasure them.....”

This work would not have been possible to complete without the constant encouragement from people whom I treasure... a few of whom I would like to quote here...

First & foremost, I would like to thank My mentor, father figure & guide Dr. N. R. Sheth & his wife Smt. Jayashree N. Sheth for treating me like their daughter and constantly giving me the support & encouragement in times of need.

This work would not have been possible if not for the untiring support rendered by yet another father figure, Dr. K. N. Jayaveera. No amount of words would be sufficient to express my gratitude.

Special gratitude to my family; Mamama, Lathu, Pradeep, Rajesh Dange, Arathi Dange, Sabitha, Divya, Abhay, Narasimha Nayak, Vijaya, Ajithanna, Vidyakka for being my Rock of Gibraltar during testing times.

Sometimes, god forgets to tie people with blood ties, therefore he makes them friends who with passing of time become more cherished than family.....Thanks from the bottom of my heart to the family I cherish and shall always be indebted to them, Purav, Nipa, Rajendra, Tejal, Nirlep, Bosky, Krunal & Ami.
Special love to the tiny tots, the twinkle in your eyes never let me lose hope through my research journey, Atul, Priyamvada, Purvi, Nirvi & Vihaar.