ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Submission of thesis is indeed a very special occasion for me to express my sincere regards and heartful appreciation to all those who made possible this thesis a reality.

First and foremost, I am profoundly and everlastingly grateful to my esteemed guide and guru, Dr Pranav S. Shrivastav, Associate Professor, Chemistry Department, School of Sciences, Ahmedabad for his valuable guidance, positive approach, inspiration, patience and enduring leniency throughout the course of my work, providing a major momentum which has successfully led me to the completion of this work.

It is my privilege to acknowledge Prof. S.K. Menon, Head, Chemistry Department, for her constant encouragement and advice at all times of need.

I wish to accord my gratitude to Mr. Naveen Sharma, Senior Vice President of BA Research India Ltd, Ahmedabad, India for his invaluable suggestions, methodical approach, advice, concern and help. I shall fail in my duties if I do not reveal my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Vijay Patel, CEO, BA Research India Ltd, Ahmedabad, India, for his helpful nature, moral boosting, and especially for allowing me to utilize all the relevant instruments, chemicals and library facilities of BA Research India Ltd to pursue my PhD work.

The teaching and non teaching staff of Chemistry Department, Gujarat University, deserves a special mention for their kind cooperation and concern for the future of students. It is indeed my pleasure and privilege to record my appreciation to Anshul Sir, Arpana Madam, Rahul Sir and all my lab members, especially Dinesh Patel, Ghanshyam Patel, Amish Shah and Kejal Patel who have always lent a helpful hand and made this phase of my life memorable. My friends need special mention for their sense of humor in time of difficulty. Finally, I am immensely grateful to my best friend and classmate Mitesh Patel for his tremendous generosity and support throughout my research work.

Words fall short to express my profound gratitude to my Mummy, Papa, my younger brother Hardik and my cousin, Late Bharat who have been the pillars of strength and role models of my life in showing me the path of perseverance. With enormous pleasure, I express my thanks to my wife Shilpa for her unconditional support and motivation during the entire course of my PhD work. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my brothers and other family members from the bottom of my heart for their selfless encouragement and help in the hour of need. My special thanks and love to my son Dirgh, who forgave me for stealing so much time from him during my research pursuit. On the same note, I would record all my appreciation to Mrs. Mallika Shrivastav for her care and motivation during the entire phase of research with Dr. Pranav Shrivastav. A special gesture of gratitude for Kaustubh whose unspoken consent enabled my guide to work without hassles.

Last but not the least; I thank the almighty Goddess Saraswati for granting her blessings on this piece of work.

Bhavin N. Patel