ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis would not have been possible without undeviating support, guidance and the help from my family, friends and colleagues who contributed directly or indirectly in the completion of this research work.

First and foremost, my utmost gratitude to Dr. Arpita Gopal, my principal supervisor for her unfailing support, invaluable guidance, sincerity and encouragement during this tenure. I am greatly appreciative for her patience; academic and moral support to me throughout the completion of this research study. Without her guidance this study would not have been successful.

Deepest gratitude is also due to my colleague Dr. Chandrani Singh, for the insight she has shared, her patience, academic and moral support. I also offer my gratitude to Prof Netra Patil, my colleague in Sinhgad Institute, Pune. She has shared her valuable insight and offered her support throughout my project and helped me complete this study.

I am also thankful to Dr. Vrishali Muley, Dr. Avinash Joshi, and pathology, anatomy laboratory staff of Shrimati Kashibai Navale hospital in Pune, India who supported me by providing the breast histology data and also guided me in collecting meaningful data and diagnosing of various cancerous tissue slides.

I also would like to thank Dr. Prashant Patil, Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh for their guidance on various medical terminologies during my work.

I am deeply thankful to my parents Sindhu and Vijay Nikam, who supported me in each and every stage of my research.

Last but not the least I would like to thank my wife Poonam, my daughter Vaidehi for their endless support and patience while I spent hours in front of my computer compiling the research work. Lastly and the most significant of all, I thank God from the bottom of my heart for giving me the strength to persevere and bring this study to completion.