Acknowledgments

Praise be to ALLAH, Lord of the worlds
The Beneficent, the Merciful, the All knowing
Owner of the day of Judgment.

You hold in your hands the final four years and six months of my academic life; or, to be more exact, an in-depth summary of the successful accomplishments with excluding the numerous ideas that completely failed. Although most of the remaining pages in this thesis will give you an idea of my work done in the laboratory during my time at SLIET, what they won’t tell you about is all that happened in the background along the way. Hence, I have more than a few people I need to thank. First and foremost I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. B K Kanungo, Professor Department of Chemistry, Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology (Deemed University), Longowal (Sangrur), Punjab, for his incessant guidance, perspicacious thoughts, constructive criticism, wonderful analysis, enthusiasm, inspiration, and his great efforts to explain things clearly and simply. When I first arrived at SLIET, I came here without a clear purpose or direction. Sir, you gave me the focus and the motivation to succeed, and by way you introduce me with the exciting knowledge and exhilarating skills of computational chemistry in your office, which was quite a lot. The sound advice, good teaching, lots of good ideas and the most important is inexorable encouragement you provided throughout my work were precious. It has been a great opportunity to work under your experience. I feel honoured to be a part of your laboratory.

My special indebtedness goes to Dr. Minati Baral, Professor Department of Chemistry, NIT Kurukshetra, Haryana, for her valuable advice, guidance, scholarly inputs and consistent contribution that made her the crucial associate of this research work. This feat was possible
only because of the unconditional support provided by Maam. A person with an amicable and positive disposition. Thank you Maam for all your help and support.

I am thankful to **Director**, SLIET Longowal for providing me financial support and all necessary facilities during the Ph.D. I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to **Dr. Harish Kumar Chopra**, Professor and Head of Department (HOD) Chemistry, SLIET Longowal for his kind support, corporation and nice atmosphere over these years. It is my privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude to all the faculty members and non-teaching staff of Chemistry Department, SLIET Longowal, for help on various issues related to this research work.

My special gratitude is reserved for **Dr. Siraj Ahmed** and **Dr. S.B.S Mishra**, Professors of Chemistry as I would not have made it to SLIET without their advice and encouragement. I thank them for their insight, support and motivation throughout my Ph.D.

I am highly thankful to **Dr. Rati Kanta Bera, Kirandeep Kaur and Amit Gupta** for their expert guidance and scientific discussions. I would like to mention the help rendered to me by my teammate **Samreet** during my solution studies, her efforts are highly acknowledged. I pay my deep regards and love to my amazing fellow labmate **Rohini** for all fun, stimulating discussions we have had in the last three years.

I wish to extend my token of love and thanks to **Romee jan, Masarat Khan, Kulsum jan, Insha syed, Gulazar Nayak, Mudasir Malik, Aamir Gull** and all other research scholars, Department of Food Engineering and Technology, SLIET Longowal, who belong to my beautiful Kashmir valley for making me feel homely after their arrival at SLIET.

I thank my fellow research scholars **Dr Bhupinder, Dr Paramjeet, Ajay sharma, Avtar singh, Garima, Nidhi** and **Simerpreet** and my labmate **Dr Richa Gupta**. A token of love for my dearest friend **Aaliya Tanga**.

I pay my deep regards and love to my dear parents (**Mohmad Akbar Mir & Nafisa Akhtar**) who deserve special mention for their inseparable support and payers. I am indebted to them for
encouraging, guiding and supporting me as well as for always showing me the brightest side of the life. It is their hard work and toil that has been instrumental in shaping my life. Although they hardly understand what writing thesis is and what I research on, my parents are willing to support any decision I make. I am so lucky to have them be my parents. Without their untiring support, motivation, and pains to see me happy, all my efforts would have gone in vain. I dedicate my success exclusively to them. When it comes to my mother, I fail to find suitable words in acknowledging her affection and blessings. Thanks to my beloved sisters Ishrat Akbar (Baji) & Ruheela Akbar, my dear brother Dr Zahid Akbar and my cousin brothers Sayer Amin, Aadil Mohmad & Zeeshan Amin for their support and unconditional love. A word of thanks to my Dad, Baji, Aadil, Zeeshan, my uncle (Mohmad Amin Mir) & my aunty (Shugufta Parveen) for visiting SLIET to meet me. I have deep sense of respect and gratitude for my uncle, Mohmad Jabbar Mir, for being always there and lending his ear on countless occasions. I would remiss if I did not thank my grandmother (Jana Begum) for all her payers and tears for me. My family provided me the unconditional love and support, which constantly remind me of how fortunate I am. My sincere appreciation and gratitude to my best friend, Irfan Husain Lone for his persistent help, support, encouragement and motivation throughout my work.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Irfan Husain Lone, Rohini & Gulzar Nayak for giving a shape to this dissertation work. Finally It has been a steep learning curve for me and the experiences I have gained during these years have been of utmost value. I would like to show my gratitude to everybody who contributed to my growth and helped me in one or the other way and made this book possible.

All may not have been mentioned but none is forgotten.

Date: 8/04/2015

Place: Longowal

(Rifat Akbar)