Acknowledgement

The first time that I thought about pursuing a PhD, I had not imagined that this assignment would require the help, support and care from so many people. Today it has become very difficult for me to say that I have done this project, comprehensively, on my own. I would like to start by thanking all the researchers who did their research projects without the help of computers, IT, Cisco and Google. They worked without the help of computers and still came out with the research that we use as the base for ours. I salute them, because today we are standing on their shoulders and carrying the baton ahead in this chase for development of scientific knowledge, which they began so selflessly.

I would take this opportunity also to thank all those students who have attended my lectures and cared to come again. Because as much as they have learnt from me, I too have learnt from them. They are the ones who push us to go that extra distance and find out more.

Behind every successful man there is a woman. For a lot of men, this would be different, but for me that woman is my wife – Ms Vineeta Gangal (Vinni). She is a constant source of energy and regeneration for me. She is the most wonderful thing that has ever happened to me.

Ms Parul Goyal (Pardi): For being the source of so much positivity and endurance. To make me understand that there is always a way.

Ms Priya Indra (Chardi): For teaching me that patience is the most important virtue and that it always works. And for letting me know that miracles do happen.

Ms Sunita Gangal: My Mom deserves much more than a mention in this acknowledgement, because she has not only brought me into this World and nurtured me, but because I know that deep down in my thought process and behaviour, I am just like her. I want to thank her for making me just like her.

Ms Shubhani Gangal (Kishu): I cannot be tired, feeling low or just be plain old sad with her around and on me. My daughter has showered unconditional love and care on me constantly, to keep me going on this project and my life. I love her most in this entire World, and she is invaluable to me. I know she feels the same about me.

Mr Aditya Gangal (Ditto): Ditto was in the ICU for more than a week, just after his birth. I would go into the ICU to see him, and as a father it was very difficult for me to comprehend what he was going through, because all I could see of him was a mesh of wires, pipes and needles. But he fought so hard and strong that on the eighth day they had to relieve him and this sugar-coated bundle of joy came home. Thanks for being so strong and showing me that it is the will that matters.
Mr Shiv Kumar Gangal: My Dad has his own way with the World and his own way of showing what he feels about it. He is a part of me and probably that part of me has made me deserving of the completion of this project successfully. He is going to be most proud of the title of ‘Dr’ before my name.

Mr Ashutosh Goyal (Jiju): Every time there was a development in my project, the first person I called was him. Because I knew that no matter where he would be, he would answer my call. And he did. He has always been there to listen to me so patiently, even to the most random thoughts that came to my mind, which actually didn’t really matter, even to me. Thanks Jiju for being there – always.

All the people I would like thank here are:

Dr Himani Joshi, Dr Vishakha Garg, Dr Aarti Trivedi, Dr Rekha Saxena, Ms Preeti Rupesh (Pichu), Dr Alark Saxena, Dr D M Pestonjee, Prof Nitin Pillai, Prof Gaurav Tandon (GT), (Late) Prof T R Anand, Ms Indubala Bhandari (Kakiji), Mr Ravi Gangal, Mr Girdhar Singhal, Mr Prahlad Goyal, Prof Rajlaxmi Vel, Prof Priyanka Sharma, Dr Hema Ramani, Prof Sharvari Dalal, Prof Saumil Shah, Prof Keshav Bhatia, Prof Rebecca Sudan (Becky), Prof Sujo Thomas, Prof Karishma Dalal, Prof Milan Pandya, Prof Amrita Bihani, Prof Neha Taneja, Prof Pervin Gandhi, Prof Nimit Thaker, Prof Chirag Trivedi, Prof Pavak Vyas, Prof D D Trivedi and Prof H D Trivedi.

I also want to thank all the children in our family, Rushabh, Aviral, Payal, Akshat, and Priyanshu, for keeping the child in me alive and bearing with it.

Last and most important of all, I would like to show my deepest gratitude to Dr Amal Kumar Srivastava, my guide, my mentor, my coach and my ideal. The humility that Dr Kumar has displayed shows how content he is with himself and the strength of his character. I wish more people are as fortunate as Vinni and me, to work under such a guide, who does everything with so much selflessness and so high in virtue. Dr Kumar has never made us feel that, we are dependent on him in any way and always nurtured the spirit of experimentation and risk-taking. Sir we thank you most sincerely and ask you to be there for us now and forever.

I would also like to thank all those people whose names I could have missed in this document, but who have had a bearing on this project and my life.

I thank almighty for giving me ‘this’ life, where I was able to meet all these fantastic people, who have helped me in their own ways to make me who I am.