Acknowledgements

At the very outset I would like to thank The Almighty for His kind blessings on me forever.

I take this opportunity in expressing my deepest sense of gratitude to my guide Prof. M. R. Yadav, Head, Pharmacy Department, Faculty of Technology & Engineering, The M. S. University of Baroda, who gave me an opportunity to contribute to science and inculcated in me a logical approach to tackle scientific problems and also for sharing his vast knowledge, experience, convivial criticism and constant encouragement. His strong belief in science combined with systematic approach has been of great help and inspiration. He has always been like the star in the sky meticulously signing the right direction to reach the ultimate goal.

The present work was carried out at Pharmacy Department, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, during the years 2006-2010. In March 2009, I also had an opportunity to stay in Prof. Thanh Truong's research group at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, USA for three months, which is greatly appreciated.

I also thank Prof. R. Giridhar, Pharmacy Department for her kind support and valuable suggestions during my research work.

It has been a privilege to work as a member of research group of Prof. M. R. Yadav and I owe my thanks to all my senior colleagues Dr. Shrikant, Dr. Bishram, Dr. Devendra, Dr. Anwar and Mr. Prafulla Sabale for their guidance and help. Dr. S. DasGupta deserves special thanks for his fruitful scientific discussion.

I am thankful to my colleagues Dhaval, Palash, Anand, Yogish, Riyaj, Vijay, Premlal, Mukesh and post-graduate students for creating such a good working atmosphere and for their help. The entire staff of our department is greatly acknowledged. Special thanks are due to Vishal and Prashant N. for their help and continuous support for each and every activity carried out in the department.

Mr. Makarand (Mac) and Dr. Gagan deserves special thanks who were my roommates at Salt Lake City, USA for making my stay comfortable in the overseas.

The financial assistance provided by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi in the form of National Doctoral Fellowship, is humbly acknowledged.

Various Government funding agencies viz. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); Department of Science and Technology (DST), VLife and Schrödinger are thankful for providing me Travel Grant for presenting my research work at international conferences.

My lovely sister Vidya deserves special thanks for her continuous moral support. My late grandfather Bbau and late grandmother Aajji are remembered as they would have been the happiest people to see me at this stage, who always supported education.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to my parents for always been there for me and always encouraging me to achieve a higher goal.

Prashant R Murumkar