Acknowledgements

It had been my long cherished dream to attach a ‘Dr.’ tag before my name because inspite of getting admission in M.B.B.S. course, I chose a noble profession of “Pharmacy”, which treats the patients, rather than which diagnoses them.

Apart from acquiring knowledge of technical skills for preparing modern day medicines, I also pursued diploma in Naturopathy which altogether unravels the secret laws of natural healing. Though a bit contradictory, both the fields of scientific healing therapies, hold their own positions in healthcare management.

It was my earnest desire to investigate the healing power of age old commonly used natural material ‘mud’ for skin diseases and modify it technically so that it can be maximally used by the society at large. Almighty acknowledged my desire and prompted Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India to fund the project (Rs. 6.5 lakhs) under WOS-B Scheme specially for women. I express my gratitude to the same and my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. A.N. Misra, then Head, Pharmacy Dept. M.S. University of Baroda for allowing me to start work under the project.

Throughout this strenuous journey of 4 yrs, God has indirectly supported me, by sending many people around me, who helped me directly or indirectly, in my achievement and so all of them share a part in my success. I cannot miss this chance to express my sincere gratitude to them.

Speech fails me when I fumble for words to articulate my heart felt and sincere gratitude to my worthy supervisor, Dr.(Mrs). Krutika K. Sawant, Professor of Pharmaceutics, whose continuous encouragement, invaluable guidance, constructive criticism, precious suggestions, crucial help, benevolent attention and tireless efforts enabled me to execute this project successfully.
I am really grateful to the emotional boosting given by Dr. Rajashree Mushru, Dr. Nazneen Surti, and Dr. U.M. Upadhyay for initiation of my project. I was also helped by Amar Shah, Manan Shah, Vimal N. Shah, and my daughter Divya Shah for computer skills. I express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Parag Shah and Mr. Sandip Shah for taking pains to bring the raw material (mud) from Dwarka and Kerala respectively.

I am grateful to Anand Agricultural University and Dr. Ravi Shah for allowing me to avail their library facilities. I am extremely thankful to Dr. Govind C. Shah for introducing me to analytical agencies like Jewel Metallochem, Metallurgical Services, and SAIF, IIT Mumbai, and Dr. Milap Shah for his valuable guidance when asked for. I thank Dr. Thakur of Geotech Dept. M.S. University for extending his help for rheology studies. I also thank Choksi Laboratory for helping me in FTIR studies and Geotech Lab. Gorva, for soil studies.

I am indebted to Dr. Marfatia (Head, Skin & VD, SSG Hospital), Dr. Raval, Dr. Joshi (Govt. Ayurved Hospital), and Dr. Bhavna Gadhvi (Govt. General Hospital, Dahod) for allowing me to conduct clinical studies. I thank all the patients, who willingly consented and faithfully undertook the treatment for psoriasis, eczema and acne.

I am grateful to Dr. Sandip Sharma for providing me excised human skin for my in vitro studies. I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Jagdish Joshi and Almin Extrusion for gifting me samples of collapsible tubes for my studies and Mr. Yogesh Shah for allowing me to visit his factory who is manufacturing medical plasters and plaster bandages.

I thank all the team members who pursued and are pursuing Ph.D under the guidance of Dr. Krutika Sawant for their best wishes and special thanks to Mr. Sandip Chavan for extending his selfless help whenever asked for.

It would be unfair on my part if I do not mention my inspiring role model Dr. Shirish N. Shah whose few encouraging words boosted my energy. I am indebted to the incessant encouragement and support from my in-laws Mr. B.G. Shah and Mr. A.G. Shah, my parents Mr. & Mrs. K.K. Shah, my sister Sangita Shah in special and all family members in general. Of course I would not have been successful to complete my project without physical and emotional
support of my husband Dr. Ashok Shah, daughter Divya, and son Ritul. I cannot forget to thank my cook Mrs. Triveniben and maid servant Rekha for sparing me from the household responsibilities to concentrate on my project.

I once again thank God for gifting me with very encouraging and supportive friends like Pallavi S. Shah, Nita R Shah, Chhaya Shah, Sharmila Shah, who have constantly boosted my spirits whenever I was depressed at certain failure stages.

With great reverence, I also express my debt of gratitude to Prof. M.R.Yadav, Prof. S.H.Misra, Prof. Balaraman, Prof.(Mrs.) S.J.Rajput, Dr. Nagar, Shri Rathod for their valuable suggestions and help whenever sought for.

I thank all the non teaching staff of Pharmacy Dept. M.S. Uni. and special thanks to Mr. Thakorebhai, Vaishaliben and Mr. Chaitanya Bhatt for handling my project.

Lastly I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to one and all, mentioned or not mentioned, who have blessed me with their good wishes, without which this project would not have materialized.

Mrs. Bina A Shah