Acknowledgements

The writing of this thesis involved scores of people to whom I owe a tremendous depth of gratitude.

“In the end we will pursue only what we love. We love only what we understand. We understand only what we are taught”.

My sincere gratitude to my mentor and guide, Dr. Manonmani H.K. for her valuable guidance, optimism and enduring patience that inspired me to accomplish my goals as a researcher. “The capacity to inspire is one of a teacher’s greatest offerings”. I will be ever grateful to her for her motivation and for inculcating in me a scientific temperament, not only by the intellect but by the heart.

‘I have never known a good cause backed by good men to have died for want of funds”- I acknowledge with gratitude the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for the award of Senior Research Fellowship that enabled me to carry out this research work.

University of Mysore is a renowned educational institution with a history dating back to the Mysore Maharajas. I owe my gratitude to the Chairman, Biotechnology department and other members of the directorate of Research of the University of Mysore.

My heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Ram Rajashekaran, Director, CSIR-CFTRI for permitting me to utilize the facilities to carry out my research work in this premiere institute.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr.S.G. Prapulla- Head of FTBE department and to the former head Dr. M.S. Thakur for their unstinting support and encouragement. I would also like to acknowledge the help given to me by Dr. Avinash P. Sattur, Dr. Praveena B. Mudliar, Dr. M.V.R.K. Sarma, Dr. Somasheker D and Mr. Punil Kumar.

My sincere thanks to the FS-AQCL department for providing me with the stepping stone to enter into the field of research as a project assistant in CSIR-CFTRI.
I am grateful to the scientists, Dr. M.N. Manjunath, Mr. Devendra J. Haware, Dr. Alok K. Srivastava and Dr. Lalitha R. Gowda for their help and support during my tenure as a project assistant.

The suggestions given by Dr. M.C. Varadraj has proved invaluable in guiding me to choose the organism, *Bacillus cereus*, which was the basis of my research study. I thank him and all the members of the Ph.D Doctoral committee for their dynamic suggestions to improve my thesis.

I acknowledge the help rendered to me by Dr. Muthukumar during the poultry immunization procedures.

I appreciate the help of all the technical and non-technical staff of FTBE department- Mrs. Minakshi, Mr. Kempe Gowda, Mr. Somanna and Mr. Mohan of CSIR-CFTRI.

A special word of thanks to my friends from the various departments of CSIR-CFTRI- Ms. Padmaja, Dr. Gururaj, Dr. Shibin, Mr. Ganesh, for their wholehearted help, support and valuable suggestions all along my Ph.D studies, Mr. Kiran for help with the western blot analysis and Ms. Bhavya PK, for her help in designing my cover pages.

I thank the administrative departments-The accounts section, the planning and monitoring committee, the stores and purchase section and the library staff for their co-operation.

I will always bear in mind the immense help that Prof. Nagendra and Ms. Shruthila, from the Biotechnology department of Sir M.V.I.T. College, Bangalore, have been to me during my docking studies.

My working environment was made conducive because of my colleagues and friends-Past and present. My sincere thanks to all in my lab for their daily support and forbearance. I extend my gratitude to Dr. Rajashekara Murthy, Dr. Arul Selvi, Dr. Sowmya N, Dr. Deepthi, Dr. Latha R, Mr. Mohan Kumar N.S., Mr. Prasanna Joglekar, Mr. Darshan, Mr. Deepak, Mr. Manju Prasanna, Dr. Vinay ,Mrs. Ranjini, Mrs. Sindhu, Ms. Nishitha, Mrs. Shamsiya, Ms. Rashmi, Ms. Sushma, Ms. Ajeetha/Chuha, Mr. Mohan and Mr. Sharath.
Friends influence our outlook on life- The heated debates and the fun-filled moments spent in CFTRI with Mr. Akshath, Mr. Vasanth, Dr. Madhu, Mr. Deepak, Mr. James, Mr. Ranga, Mr. GoBi, Mr. David, Mr. Basu, Ms. Richa, Ms. Meenakshi, Mrs. Swetha, Mrs. Shubha, Mr. Vasanth Raghavan, Mr. Rajeev, Mr. Shiv Kumar, Ms. Divya, Ms. Uma, Ms. Mansi, Ms. Saritha, and Mr. Mahendra have sustained me on this memorable journey. Though too many to mention NONE are forgotten!

‘Recreational breaks make one more productive’. Martial arts and angling have been the hobbies that were enriching diversions that helped me in achieving a balanced outlook to life.

I am indebted to my Sensei, Jaideep Balerao, for training me in the Martial arts that were fruitful in keeping me calm and focused.

The art of Angling, on my Indian rivers and enjoying the bountiful nature of Kodagu, was a fascinating bridge, between my yearning for adventure and my scientific pursuit.

A family makes life more meaningful and my extended ‘Big Fat Family’, has nurtured me through thick and thin. Their appreciation and criticism has meant a lot to me and I am thankful to all of them.

My Granny and my parents have always backed me and encouraged my endeavors. My everlasting gratitude to them and to my brother for always being there for me.

My homage to my ancestors, whose courage, patience, perseverance and élan has come down generations, through their wonderful genes.

My scientific journey was gilded by the blessings of God Almighty and I pray for his continued blessings in future.

Mandappa I.M.