ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I bow to Godess Saraswati who full-fills the wishes of the devotees. I pray you to enlighten me with knowledge.

I would like to thank the Almighty for giving me strength and courage to take up my responsibilities to best of my abilities and accomplishing this piece of work.

Tradition has given a great place for Guru (Preceptor) in human life. The Guru is Brahma in creating Knowledge, he is Vishnu the protector of our Intellectual faculty and he is Maheshwara the destroyer or the despeller of our Ignorance. He is Para Brahma (The Supreme Being) in binding us all with the feeling of universal oneness hence I offer my salutation to him

I sincerely thank my guru Prof. Datta Madamwar, Head of the Department of Biosciences, Sardar Patel University for his support, co-operation, encouragement, invaluable guidance, care and for the believe which he had in me at times when I found it difficult to believe in myself. I will always be indebted to him, without his patience it would have been difficult for me to reach here.

My sincere thanks to Prof. Irene Wagner Döbler, Head of Research Group "Microbial Communication", Department of Cell Biology, German Research Center for Biotechnology, Braunschweig, Germany; for giving me the opportunity to work in her laboratory and providing all the facilities. I am thankful to her for her invaluable scientific discussions, guidance, constant encouragement, constructive criticism and faith in me. It was her warmth and openness which made my stay in Germany comfortable and memorable one.

Dr. Helena Szatjer Senior Scientist Research Group "Microbial Communication", Department of Cell Biology, German Research Center for Biotechnology Braunschweig, Germany, I sincerely thank you for endowing valuable knowledge and guidance throughout my study in Germany which has broadened my horizons of the subject. Her untiring support has helped me accomplish my work in time. Her loving nature made me feel at home in the foreign country.
I am thankful to Prof. K.C Patel, Dr. Ujjaval Trivedi, Dr.(Mrs.) Amita Shah, Dr. Haresh Keharia, and all other teachers for the knowledge, guidance and help they have provided me during the period of my study and research.

Thanks to University Grants Commission (September 2002-February 2003), Department of Biotechnology (June 2003-August 2005), DAAD German Academic exchange service (September 2005-February 2006) for providing financial assistance.

I owe thanks to my dear friend Mrs. Safia Moosvi who has been there with me throughout my academic career. Her love, care, emotional support has kept me buoyant through the hard phases of my life.

To my colleagues in the laboratory in India and Germany with special mention to Dr. Amit Thakar, Dr. Amit Parikh, Dr.(Mrs.) Sini Mathew, Mrs. Purvi Kapasi, Mrs. Chaitali Vaidya, Mrs. Rachna Joshi, Mr. Badrish Soni, Ms. Sarayu Mohana, Mrs. Hetal Patel, Mr. Chirayu Desai, Mr. Bhavik Acharya, Ms. Hilor Pathak, Ms. Vrushali Dandvate, Mr. Eltayid Hasan, Ms. Agnes Bodor, Mr. Andre Lemme, Dr. Alok Sharma, Dr.(Mrs.) Sarita Sharma, Dr. (Mrs.) Deepti Dwivedi and Dr. (Mrs.) Nirupama Pati for their constant encouragement, help, support and making the atmosphere congenial and cheerful throughout my study.

I am thankful to the University non teaching staff for their help. I would like to thank Mrs. Bettina Elxnat Laboratory Technician German Research Centre for Biotechnology Braunchweig, Germany, for all kind of help throughout my stay in Germany.

Thanks is too small a word for My parents for their love, constant encouragement, motivation, emotional and moral support, sacrifice and having confidence in me which has enabled me overcome all difficulties with ease.

Unconditional love and support of My loving husband has brought this day in our life. I am blessed by god to have him in my life and I am thankful to my husband for accepting me as I am. Without his guidance, help, sacrifice, trust and patience it would not have be possible for me to uptake my responsibilities. His encouragement has motivated me and helped me to undertake all tasks with ease.

I would like to thank all My family members for their love, care, affection and constant support which has enabled me to work with full enthusiasm.

Last but not the least thanks to My sisters, brother-in-laws, nephews, niece and Mrs. Rutu H Patel for their love, affection, boosting at times of depression and frustration.

Urvashi V Thacker.