The journey is easier when you travel together. Interdependence is certainly more valuable than independence. During this work I have been accompanied and supported by many people. It is a pleasant moment that I have now the opportunity to express my gratitude for all of them.

First of all, I wish to express gratitude to my research guide, Dr. Vandana K. Hivrale, Associate professor, Department of Biochemistry, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, without whose honest support and guidance it is highly impossible to see the light of the day. During these years, I have known her as a sympathetic and principle-centered person. Her enthusiastic and integral view on research has made a deep impression on my mind. She gave me lots of inspiration and encouragement. I am profoundly grateful to her, whose illuminating instruction and expert advice have guided me through every step of my research work. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to her because she formed part of my vision and taught me good things that really matter in life. In my future life, I will defiantly carry and transmit her research ideology, thoughts and valuable lessons.

I express my cordial thanks to Dr. M. S. Kachole, Head, Department of Biochemistry, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, for moral support and providing all the amenities for the completion of the work.

It gives me immense pleasure to express my special thanks to Neeta and Prashant, you both are close to me in my life. You supported me with love and unconditional friendship and your way of helping was most of the times an example to be taken into account.

I want to mention my thanks to my former and present group members Dr. Pavanjeet Chhabda, Dr. Vinod Parde, Vinod Borde, Balaji Panchal, Shriniwas Bassaiye and Kirti Sangole, for company, cooperation and generous support.
I specially want to thank Dr. Amol Katgaonkar, Dhanaji Jawale Patil, Mahesh Mane, Umesh Pratap, Santosh Katkar, Amol Kale, Daulat Lomte, Dr. Arjun Mane, Ajit Yelwande, Pravin Shinde, Lalit and Amar for their moral support, valuable suggestions and unconditional friendship, which helped me a lot in staying at the right track during my research work.

The love, affection and undoubting support provided by my parents Pitaji and Aai, was constant inspiration to reach this stage in my life. I wish to express my deepest sense of gratitude to my brother Rushikesh and sister Gokarna for their unfailing help and encouragement during the work.

During this work I have been supported with two research fellowships, the fellowship provided by University Grant Commission (UGC) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) Government of India, New Delhi is gratefully acknowledged.

Last, but certainly not least, the continual encouragement and direct and indirect support of my friends is deeply and sincerely appreciated.

Purushottam R. Lomate