ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work described in this thesis has been carried out under the supervision of Dr Lalit M. Bharadwaj, Head, Biomolecular Electronics and Nanotechnology Division (BEND), Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), Chandigarh, India; Dr Ram P Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Jambeshwar University, Hisar, India and former Director, CSIO and; Prof Rupinder Tewari, Department of Biotechnology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India during the period from July 09, 2002 to September 06, 2005. I express my immense gratitude to all my supervisors for their invaluable support, highly desired suggestions and inspiring discussions, which provided me direction to pursue research in the emerging field of nanobiotechnology.

First of all, I am highly thankful to my family members who have always been the pillars of strength for me and have always bestowed me with motivation and endeavor to pursue my aim. I am obliged to all my fellow team members, namely Dr Rakesh Kumar, Mr A K Shukla, Mr Ram Ajore, Mr Ranvinder Singh, Mr Sandeep Koundal, Mrs Ellis, Mrs Sunita, Mr C K Dikshit, Mr Ishwinder Sethi, Ms Reena, Ms Inderpreet, and Mr Rajesh Madan for providing a congenial, healthy and conducive atmosphere in the laboratory.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr Pawan Kapur, Director CSIO for providing valuable support and facilities to work at the institute. I am also grateful to Dr Gautam Mitra, Decision Unit Incharge at CSIO for his support to this endeavour. I am greatly thankful to Prof R C Sobti, Department of Biotechnology for providing me facilities to work at the department.

I am greatly indebted to Dr D N Singh, Dr M J Zarabi and Dr Sanjay Verma for providing me the facilities to work at Semiconductors Complex limited (SCL), Mohali, India and their keen interest in the project. I am also obliged to Dr B D Gupta, Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) for helping me to understand the medical aspects of disease diagnosis. I also value highly the opportunity to work with the state-of-the-art AFM at CEERI, Pilani, India under the guidance of Dr R P Gupta and Mr Ashok Sharma. I express my regards to Ms Inderpreet Kaur for assisting me in the electrical measurements on polylysine glass slides and in the understanding of
electrical phenomenon taking place at the biomolecular level. I am greatly thankful to Mr Rajesh Madan for developing MATLAB based software to predict the response of microcantilever to biomolecular interactions on its surface. I greatly express my thanks to Mr Awdhesh Kumar Shukla for developing software for analyzing the surface coverage of fluorescent biomolecules immobilized on gold-coated silicon. I express my sincere thanks to Mr Ashwini Kumar who has designed and fabricated the required flow cell arrangement for microcantilever based diagnostic kit.

I greatly acknowledge Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Human Resource Development Group (HRDG), New Delhi for providing me the research fellowship. I also acknowledge the support of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), India for providing project funds for the development of microcantilever based diagnostic kit under the National Programme on Smart Materials (NPSM).

(Sandeep Kumar)