Acknowledgement:

Successful completion of the thesis work was possible because of support of numerous people.

Primarily, I would like to thank my parents, Mr. Chandarshekar K and Mrs. Ragini Chandarshekar for encouraging me to pursue my passion of studying biology. Without their countless sacrifices, it would have been impossible for me to do post-graduation.

I would like to thank my fellow researchers in IBAB for their constant support and feedback towards my thesis work. Mrs. Neelima Ch besides being a close friend and well-wisher, she provided constructive inputs for developing and improving the biocuration system and gene expression databases, she helped in the exercise of comparison of promoter prediction program. She was the main contributor in the biocuration of gene expression data related to testicular conditions. I also would like to thank Mrs. Leena Rao, Mrs. Deepti H, Ms. Shreelakshmi and Ms. Pranami Bora for their contribution towards the compilation of publicly available gene expression data.

Mr. Akhilesh Bajpai and Mrs. Sravanthi Davuluri are senior biocurators, who used the biocuration system to compile gene expression data related to uterine conditions. Their valuable inputs led to many improvements in the biocuration system. Also, thank Mrs. Sonali Bhagwat for her contribution towards development of HGEx-Edb.

I am grateful to Mr. Govind Kumar B for the support during the experimental validations of meta-analysis method. I acknowledge the support of Ms. Abinaya S during primer designing for NOA associated genes. I thank Ms. Tinsu Matthews for her help to standardize the TFBS analysis using MATCH tool and Mr. Alok Sharma for the help to standardize motif analysis protocol.

I would like to thank Ms. Vanitha, Mr. Siva Arumugam, Ms. Krishna Patel and Mr. Rama Kumar for their support towards development of MotDet tool. I thank former IBAB students, Mr. Anish Kumar, Mrs. Jhansi Rani, Mrs. Madhura Adavkar, Ms. Pallavi Gupta, Mr. Venkata Siva and Ms. Yashaswini Yellappa for their work towards improving features of GREAM and IMPAT.
I thank Mr. Abdulla Khan, system administrator, IBAB, for all the support, which facilitated the creation and maintenance of databases and web-based tool in local server. I thank Mrs. Mangala Acharya, our librarian and my well-wisher for her support in collection of research articles.

I thank Dr. Vasan S, Ankur hospital, Bengaluru, for showing interest in our research and providing us clinical samples for experiments. I am grateful to Ganit Labs, Bengaluru for sequencing the clinical samples from NOA patients.

I thank funding agencies, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DietY) for generous funding for my research work.

I would like to thank the members of Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC), Dr. Gayathri Saberwal, Dr. Vijayachandra, Dr. Srivatsan for their suggestions towards my work.

Our director, Prof. Yathindra N deserves a special mention, for all his support. He made sure that I got ‘state of art’ infrastructure for my research and encouraged me to attend conferences and workshops to improve my knowledge about current trends in Bioinformatics. He was in constant touch with my research progress and his constructive criticisms were extremely helpful in shaping my research work.

Finally, I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. Kshitish Acharya for immeasurable support and guidance. His belief in me was the main driving force that pulled me throughout these years. His encouragement to learn beyond my area of expertise expanded my skill sets immensely. Beyond my thesis work, his guidance in improving presentation skills, personality, and research ethics made me not only better researcher but also a better person.