Acknowledgement

The work presented in this thesis would not have been possible without my close association with many people who were always there when I needed them the most. I take this opportunity to acknowledge them and extend my sincere gratitude for helping me make this Ph.D. thesis a possibility.

A vision without an action is a dream; an action without a vision is an activity. But vision and action together can do wonders. My research supervisor, Dr. P. A. WADEGAONKAR always leads by example perfectly. The concept of 'we' was incepted in his team since day one. His obsession and involvement displays a great leader in him. He always promoted and responded to the curiosities reflecting his fine knowledge. He took a leap forward carrying his students in the pouch. His constant guidance, cooperation and support have always kept me going ahead. I will remain indebted to him for all the guidance he gave, for every thought he incepted, for every initiation he admired and above all for the valuable friendship he cared and bear.

I am deeply indebted and would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. M. K Rai, Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, SGB Amravati University for providing adequate laboratory facilities. He has been to me a contributor, who has constantly provided the necessary moral and physical support towards successful completion of this research work. I gratefully acknowledge Mrs. V. P. Wadegaonkar for her valuable advice, constant motivation and support during the course of my thesis. My deepest gratitude goes to my esteemed teachers: Dr. (Mrs.) A. S. Patil, Dr. P. V. Thakare, Dr. A. K. Gade, and Mr. S. D. Kove for their inspiration, guidance and constant encouragement during the course of this research work.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to my senior colleagues and friends: Dr. Sarika Deshmukh, Mr. Jai Jaiswal, Mr. Sachin Harle, Mr. Roshan Godse, Mr. Anand Yadav, Ms. Prachi Joshi, Ms. Harshada Pille and Ms. Swati Hade for their unconditional support and constant encouragement and making a wonderful working atmosphere in the lab. I would like to
acknowledge my other friends for their moral support and motivation, which drives me to
give my best. Dr. Yogesh & Surekhatai, Nilesh Sir, Ravi Sir, Avinash, Amit, Indar, Dnyaneshwar,
Abhijeet, Swapnil, Anand, Sandip, Pravin, Digvijay, Bhushan, Harris sir, Chetan, Vinod ....the
list is endless...thanks to one and all. I wish to express my thanks to non-teaching staff- Mr.
Dhoke, Mrs. Mendhe, Mr. Shende, Mr. Ganorkar, Mr. Dube, Mr. Dhote, Mr. Vairagade, Mr.
Borkar and Mr. Kawre for their cooperation during my research.

I take this platform to thank the Department of Biotechnology, Sant Gadge Baba
Amravati University for providing FIST and BIF facility sponsored by Department of Science
and Technology and Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, respectively. I am also thankful
to LSRB-DRDO, New Delhi for financial support in the form of project fellowships to carry out
my research which acted as an encouragement.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the people who mean world to me, my parents, my
brother, sisters and especially my beloved mamaji, who have always supported me since my
childhood. I don’t imagine a life without their love and blessings. Thank you Aai and Baba for
showing faith in me and giving me liberty to choose what I desired. I consider myself the
luckiest in the world to have such a supportive family, standing behind me with their love and
support. I extend my thanks to my nephew Amit and Aditya, and Niece Prachi and Shrusti,
for they have been the source of joy and their presence has de stressed me and relieved my
anxious moments during the course of the research work. ‘I am blessed’ are the only words, I
can in return think, for setting my perceptions, and altering my approaches not only in the
study field but also for changing my life indeed by my family.

I thank the Almighty for giving me the strength and patience to work through all these
years so that today I can stand proud with my head held high.

RAHUL BHAGAT