ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First, I wish to express my gratitude to the Almighty God, who is my strength, my refuge and my shelter. He truly deserves all the glory and the honour.

It is with great pleasure that I express my sincere thanks and profound gratitude to my research supervisor Dr. Pramod B. Gai, Prof. and Director, Karnataka Institute for DNA Research, Dharwad for his inspiring guidance. I consider it a great privilege to have his thoughtful suggestions and directions, which enabled me to write the thesis and complete it.

I am thankful to Dr. N. Shivanna Prof. & Coordinator, Dept. of Applied Genetics, Karnataka University for his encouragement to carry out my research work.

I express my heart felt thanks to Dr. K. Thangraj Senior Scientist CCMB, Hyderabad, Dr. T. A. Sheepur, Director, GIMS, Kalaburgi, Dr. B. Vijayachandra Principal Navodaya Medical College, Raichur and Dr. M. L. Kulkarni, Former Prof. & Head, Dept. of Paediatrics JJM Medical College Davangere, for their encouragement.

I thank Dr. G. M. Wali, Neurologist, Neurospeciality Center, Belgaum, Dr. S. V. Hiremath, Dept. of Biotechnology, P. C. Jabin Science College, Hubli, Dr. Ram Kaulgud, KIMS, Hubli and Dr. Bhushan G., Neurologist, Hubli for not only providing samples for my research but also for their valuable suggestions. I am thankful to Rashmi, Amruta, Vandana, Shantala, Bhushan, Harendra and Sujayendra for their help in the data collection and sample preparation. My special thanks are due to Dr. Suyamindra S. Kulkarni for his constant help and support during all the stages of my research. I am thankful to all the patients and their family members who have willingly participated in the study and provided their blood samples for this study.

I am thankful to Dr. (Mrs.) S. Kaliwal, Dr. (Mrs.) Madhuri B., Dr. Gururaj K., Prakash G., Dr. Suresh B., Bashir, Sharanu, Mudigouda, Ashok, Praveen, Manju, Somu, Prashant for their help during different stages of my work. Thanks are also due to Karnataka Institute for DNA Research, Dharwad, Genotypic Technologies, Bangalore and Karnataka University, Dharwad for providing me facilities.

Last but not the least, I remain indebted to my parents and my family, for their constant support and encouragement throughout the course of this work.

Date: 10/11/2014
Place: Dharwad.

G. S. Kadakol