ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Grateful to Almighty for blessing me with the opportunity, strength and patience to accomplish this task. The success of this research has been due to the invaluable contributions of various individuals. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their efforts.

At the very outset, with a high sense of gratitude, utmost indebtedness and respect I would like to express my honest and heartfelt thanks to my research supervisor and mentor Professor Dr. N. Yagnesh Sharma who has been a source of inspiration in my academic endeavors. He has a deep intellectual insight in the area of Turbo-machinery and Computational Fluid Dynamics. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to my research co-guide Professor Dr. Satish Shenoy B., for inspiring and supporting me to carry out research in the field of gas turbine blade cooling. With their laudable scientific know-how they have guided me in my research task tirelessly. My research supervisors have left an indelible imprint in my life as my advisors and mentors. They have stood by me throughout my work as caring guides, affectionate friends and philosophers. Their guidance and help at every moment of my research work has made an uphill task easy. I remain indebted to them throughout my life for having led me so well on the path of research.

I thank Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal University, for providing me an opportunity for doing research by extending all facilities including conference grants.

I record my indebtedness to Dr. Raviraja, Associate Director (R & C), Dr. S. Divakara Shetty, Professor and Head, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Dr. K. Jagannath, Professor, Dr. K Vasudeva Karanth, Professor and Dr. U. Achutha Kini,
Professor and Research co-ordinator for their encouragement during the course of my Ph. D work and for giving valuable inputs during the DAC presentations.

My gratitude also extends to Dr. Vinod V. Thomas, Director, Dr. D. Srikanth Rao, Joint Director, and Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal for research support during all the years of my research.

Special thanks are due in many ways to Dr Abdul Khader, and Mr. Manjunath M. S who helped me during the course of my Ph.D. Last but never the least, I shall always be thankful to all my colleagues and friends Mr. Rajesh Nayak, Mr Sathish Rao, Mr. Madwesh, Mr. Umanath R Poojary and Mr Karthik Rao for their encouragement and support during different phases of my doctoral study.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank Mr. Guruprasad, Design Engineer, GWASF, Mangalore, Mr. Yashwant, Proprietor, Shakthi Tools, Mangalore and Mr. Prasanna, Proprietor, Electro Heat Systems, Mangalore, for the fabrication of experimental setup.

I owe special thanks to all the supporting staffs of Mechanical Lab, MIT for their constant support, encouragement and lending helping hand to carry out the experimental investigation despite their hectic schedule.

My parents, sister, niece, wife and daughter have always offered unwavering support and have consistently placed their faith in my ability to make self-decisions. Without this balance of support and independence, I am certain that I could have neither developed the determination nor the confidence in my abilities and in my actions that have been
necessary to complete my doctoral work. I pray to Almighty to reward them the best in this world.

Finally, I wish to thank all who have contributed either directly or indirectly to my work but whose names could be not listed.

Chandrakant R Kini

Place: Manipal

Date: 09 – 01 – 2016