Acknowledgment

I convey my sincere gratefulness to my mentor and supervisor, Professor Samir Kumar Mukherjee, Department of Microbiology, University of Kalyani, for his valued supervision, persistent support, and fruitful criticism throughout my research work. He has truly been a great source of inspiration, insight, input and caring gesture. The knowledge he has imparted and patience he has displayed were vital for completing this study.

I owe a depth of gratitude to Dr. Keka Sarkar, Head, Department of Microbiology, University of Kalyani, for her valuable suggestion and constant encouragement during the course of my work. I also express my sincere thanks to Dr. Ekramul Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, University of Kalyani, for his elder brotherly support.

I am also grateful to the Department of Environmental Sciences, Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics and Department of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology of University of Kalyani for providing the different facilities whenever required for this study. I express thanks to Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, Bose Institute, Kolkata and Indian Association of Cultivation of Science, Kolkata for providing instrument facilities.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Sajal Chakraborty, Prof. Tarakdas Basu and Prof. Tapan Kumar Das of Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics, Dr. Soma Mukherjee of Department of Environmental Sciences, Prof. Ashoke Prasun Chatterjee of Department of Chemistry, University of Kalyani for their valuable suggestions. I also acknowledge Dr. Rajat Banerjee, Department of Biotechnology, University of Calcutta, Prof. Amitava Patra, Indian Association of Cultivation of Science, Kolkata and Dr. Pratik Dutta, PHRI, New Jersey, USA for their constant encouragement and support. Special thanks to Prof. Michael Niederweis, Department of Microbiology, The University of Alabama at Brimingham, USA for providing the plasmid pMS2.

I would like to thank Dr. Sangram Sinha, Dr. G.B. Sau and Dr. Swagata Chatterjee for their encouragement.

Special thanks to my labmates and friends Arghya Bandyopadhyay, Prasenjit Das, Ivy Mallick, Saptarshi Chatterjee, Anirudha Paul, Tanima Paul, Semanti Basu, Dwiptirtha Chattopadhyay, Amit Paul, Soumitra Chatterjee, Arijit Chatterjee, Jayjit Majumdar, Manas Mukherjee, Subhasis Barik, Subhabrata Moitra, Atanu Ghorai and Trinath Ghosh, it would not be possible for me to complete this work without their support.

I acknowledge the administration of the University of Kalyani for allowing me to pursue this work and for approving my candidature for the enrollment in Ph.D. course.

I like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of the staff members of Department of Microbiology, University of Kalyani.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to parents and parents-in-law for their constant encouragement. Lastly, but not the least, I acknowledge the painstaking support received from my wife Taj Afrin and my beloved sons Taniim and Tahir, without their unquestioned help I could not be able to complete my work.

(Sk Tofajjen Hossain)