ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to acknowledge all those who had helped me through these years of my study to accomplish my goal.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. R. Malathi, Reader, Department of Genetics, University of Madras, not just for supervising but also for guiding me through and for her valuable suggestions and advice. I thank her for introducing me to this field and for making me contribute a trifle to educate the therapeutic potential of RNA. Her ideas and visions has always been a source of inspiration.

I owe my sincere thanks to Prof. A. Ramesh, Head, Department of Genetics, University of Madras for extending his support for carrying out research in this Department and for the encouragement he offers to the research students.

I am grateful to Dr. G. Jayaraman, Reader, Department of Genetics, University of Madras, for his kind valuable support and precious guidance. I thank him for teaching me finer technical details of the present work and for his priceless suggestions.

I owe my sincere thanks to Prof. R. Raghunathan, Head, Department of Organic Chemistry for providing the synthetic compounds NA 90, NA 91,
NA 106 and NA 107. I thank him for extending his support, technical expertise and for his constant encouragement.

I thank Prof. R. Mayasundari, former Head, Department of Genetics, for her support and valuable suggestions. I thank Prof. M. Michel ArulDas, Director, Dr ALM PG IBMS, University of Madras, for extending his support for carrying out research in this institute.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. S. T. Santhiya, Dr. A. K. Munirajan and Dr. N. Chandra, faculties of the Department of Genetics and Dr. C. Sreekumari, CSIR Scientist, for their support and encouragement.

I sincerely thank Prof. Michel. J. Leibowitz, USA for providing the Group I intron-containing strain (4-1) and the intronless strain (62-1) of Candida albicans and for his valuable suggestions.

I am thankful to Nobel laureate Prof. Sidney Altman and Dr. Cecilia Guerrier-Takada, USA for providing me the EGS clones and for their suggestions in the antisense EGS work.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. V. Sekar for his valuable suggestions and for providing me the E. coli strains.

I express my thanks to my lab members Ms. Shilpakala Sainath Rao, Mr. R. Raskin Erusan and Ms. D. Nalini for their valuable and timely help.

I thank Dr. K. Chandrasekhar, Dr. I. Maria Johnson and my colleagues Ms. S. Usha and Mr. Ravishankar Ram for their contribution.
I specially thank my friends Ms. J. Christol, Mr. C. Elias, Mr. R. Rajan, Mr. A. Franklin, Ms. K. Uma Maheshwari and Mr. V. Suresh Kumar for their timely help and moral support. I thank Ms. Rekha Govindan, Mr. M. Karthikeyan, Mr. Rajiv Rose, Ms. S. Geetha, Mr. G. Kathirvel, Mr. B. Anandan, Ms. V. Shreedevi and Mr. Velmurugan for their help and encouragement. I also thank Mr. Arumugam, Mr. Parthasarathy, Mr. VijayBabu, Dr. Saravanan and Mr. Girish for their help and support.

I thank the non-teaching members of this department Dr. Kalavathy, Mr. P. Easter Raj Solomon, Mr. Raju, Mr. Ramachandran Das, Mr. Thirunavukarasu, Mr. Krishnamoorthy, Ms. Devi and Mr. Thangaraj for their valuable services.

I thank the Lady Tata Memorial Trust for offering their financial support in the form of a “Junior Scholarship”.

I am grateful to my parents for providing me a base for a career and a future. I express my sincere thanks to my sister, brother and my cousins for their constant encouragement and moral support throughout the period of study.

I thank the Almighty God for his blessings.