

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my deep gratitude towards my guide, Prof. Sarita Gupta. Her constant support, advice and encouragement had been immensely valuable for the successful completion of this work. I am particularly thankful to her for the genuine concern she has shown for my academic development. I have the deepest respect, appreciation and admiration for her. I truly enjoyed my experience working with her.

I sincerely thank the Head of the department Prof. Naresh Kumar for providing all the research facilities.

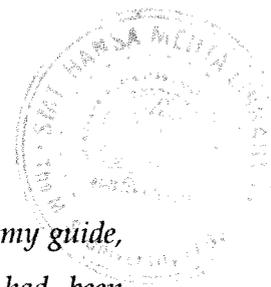
My special acknowledgement to Dr. Sharad Gupta (Gupta Pathology Lab, Baroda) for his valuable suggestions, who helped me in making this thesis more meaningful. I am extremely grateful to Dr. Sharma, Dept. of Geology for his generous and timely help throughout my research.

My sincere thanks are to Dr. Ajay Bhandarkar (Sujay Urological Hospital, Baroda) for his humble permission that we could procure the human prostate samples from the hospital for our scientific endeavor and I cannot forget the contribution of Mr. Nitin Patel (Gupta Pathology Lab, Baroda) for his great care of the samples before bringing them for analysis.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our dean Prof. Ramachandran for his consent to perform histological studies. I am also obliged to Dr. T.G. Shrivastava (NIHFW, New Delhi) for his help to perform radioactive assays and to Dr. Krishnan and family for their moral support as well as his special help to do AAS studies.

I am grateful to Dr. Laxmi Priya for spending her invaluable time for critical assessment of the thesis and her imperative suggestions in the writing of the thesis. I am really indebted to other lab seniors Dr. Vihas, Dr. Jyoti and Dr. Anil for their online support especially for availing the references and key suggestions for the experiments.

I am also highly gratified to all my teachers Prof. S.S. Katyare, Dr. M. D. Jani, Prof. Rasheedunnisa Begum, Prof. S.D. Telang, Prof. L.J. Parekh, Dr. Jayashree Pohnerkar, Dr. C. Ratna Prabha, Dr. S.R. Acharya, Dr. Pushpa Robin, Dr. Devesh Suthar and other faculty members of this department for always being helpful. I am also thankful to animal house staff members Mr. Ramesh Parmar, Shankar bhai, Vijay bhai and Narayan bhai and also to office staff of the Department.



My sincere gratitude to my lab mates Prakash, for his constant support and Niraj, whose help and witty humors which made my research days very pleasant and enjoyable, I would like to specially acknowledge the recently joined research members, Anubha, and Nidheesh for being always helpful and supportive. It was a pleasure to work with all of them.

I would like to thank my friends whose personal support was essential for the completion of this work. In this regard, sincere thanks to Hemendra, Gopit and Hiren for the encouragement, constant support, and fruitful discussions, without them I certainly could not have completed this work. I am very lucky to have friends like them and would forever cherish their friendship in my life.

Special thanks to former research scholars Keyur, Shajil, Prashant, Maulik, Munjal, Samir, Minal, Saiyed, Aditi, Vikas, Namita for all the help and support they have provided.

It has been pleasure to work in this department with the research students who have always helped me. Thanks to Iqbal, Pradeep, Hina, Jyotika, Jisha, Divya, Dr. Mukta Mohan, Purva, Jitendra, Naresh, Mitesh, Chanchal.

I am also thankful to M.Sc. dissertation students who worked in this project—Arif, Arunodhay, Manish and Harshul who have contributed in many ways to this study. Thanks to Jignesh Mehta for his help in thesis formatting.

I thank Dr. Jignesh Pandya, Dr. Subhash Katewa and Dr. Keyur Dave for their encouragement and moral support throughout my work.

I am thankful to my papa and mummy for their wonderful parenting and love. They are the real strength behind me. My heartiest thanks to Sharada baa, uncle and aunt for their absolute love and support. Special thanks to my well-wishers, Jignesh-Janki, Keyur-Hetal, Amruta, Satyam, Montu, Hemal, and Arpita for their moral support. I can not forget my niece Dhriti's pleasant smile and nephew Aayush's, funny activities which lightened my mood whenever I felt tiresome.

I owe so much to Pinal whose happy combination of love and dedication supported me during the project when I needed it most. I am fortunate that she is my wife.

Finally I extend my gratitude to The Architect of this creation for providing me such a precious life and his everlasting blessings to me and my family.

Chirayu Pandya