

Acknowledgement

*From the formative stages of the thesis, to the final version, I am extremely indebted to my esteemed guide, **Dr. Prabhudas S. Patel**, Head, Department of Cancer Biology, The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, Ahmedabad. This work would not have been possible without his guidance, support and encouragement. Under his guidance, I successfully overcame many difficulties and learned a lot. He has been responsible for my upliftment throughout this work. I am also thankful to him for providing me an excellent environment, necessary infrastructure and resources to accomplish my research work. Thank you Sir, for your support and advice on every important aspect and for always being helpful whenever needed.*

*I express my gratitude to my co-guide **Professor Rasheedunnisa Begum**, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University, Baroda for her continual encouragement, constructive suggestions and well planned supervision and valuable guidance throughout the tenure. I am happy to have madam as my co-guide. Thank you Madam, for being enormously supportive.*

*I am grateful to **Dr. Rakesh K. Vyas**, In-charge Director, **Dr. Geeta M. Joshi**, Deputy Director and **Dr. Kiran C. Kothari**, Deputy Director, The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for their unconditional support to make this work possible. I sincerely thank **Dr. Shilin N. Shukla**, Former Director, The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for his support during the tenure of this work.*

*I am also thankful to **Professor Sarita Gupta**, Head and **Professor Naresh Kumar**, Former Head, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University, Baroda for giving me permission to register under the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University, Baroda. I am also grateful to them for their help and support throughout the study.*

*I am sincerely thankful to **Prof. G Archana**, **Prof. Anjana Desai** and **Dr. Laxmipriya Nampoothiri** at Faculty of Science, The M. S. University, Baroda for their valuable suggestions and constructive criticism throughout the tenure.*

*I am obligated to **Dr. Jayendra B. Patel**, Senior Scientific Officer and **Dr. Franky D. Shah**, Senior Scientific Officer at Biochemistry Research Division, Department of Cancer Biology, The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for their advice and their willingness to share their bright thoughts with me, which was very fruitful for shaping up my ideas and research.*

It is my pleasure to express my sincere thanks to all teachers at Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University, Baroda for their support during the whole study.

*I wish to convey special acknowledgement to **Dr. Ragini D. Singh** for her support, generous care and encouragement. During the inevitable ups and downs of conducting my research she often reminded me life's true priorities. This helped me a lot to work for hours tirelessly. I doubt that I will ever be able to convey my appreciation fully, but I owe her my eternal gratitude.*

*It gives me immense pleasure in acknowledging the boundless help and support, received from my colleagues, **Bhairavi N. Vajariya**, **Shruti R. Patel**, **Kinjal D. Patel** and **Ruchita Dave** who played important roles along the entire journey. They have shared valuable insights in the relevance of the study.*

*It's my pleasure to acknowledge **Mrs. Asha Chauhan** and **Mrs. Savita Vaghela** for their help.*

I also take opportunity to acknowledge the staff members of all Clinical Departments and Library of The Gujarat cancer & Research Institute for extending their support and co-operation during the study.

*I sincerely appreciate the help and express my heartfelt wishes and thanks to my colleagues especially **Shoaib**, **Tina**, **Mala**, **Naresh Laddha** and **Mitesh Diwadi** and other labmates at Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University, Baroda, who have always been there to help me whenever needed.*

***My parents** deserve special mention for their inseparable support and prayers. I am thankful to **my sisters (Anal and Nikita)** and **brother (Ankit)**, and many more to mention in family, for their constant love and support in all my happiness and even in struggles, difficulties & hard times of my life. I am also thankful to **Pragnesh**, **Mitul**,*

Piyush, Anjali, Piyu and Amita for their love, care and moral support and creating a pleasant atmosphere for me. I wish to thank my fabulous nephew, Aarav who has brought great joy for me and for the whole family.

*Words fail to show my appreciation to my husband **Ankit**, for his dedication, love, persistent confidence in me and unconditional support. He was always beside me during the happy and hard moments to push me and motivate me. A very special thank to my **Parents-in-law, Anita bhabhi, Ketanbhai** for their support. I am also thankful to little **Harmi** for giving me happiness.*

*I am indebted to my friends **Meghna, Arti, Khushbu, Pankti, Priyanka, Shivani, Krunal and Paresh** for their valuable help and moral support.*

I am indebted to all the subjects including patients and their families for their participation which formed integral part of this Ph.D work.

It is a pleasant task to express my thanks to all those who contributed in many ways to the success of this study and made it an unforgettable experience for me.

*Last but not the least, the one above all of us, **the omnipresent God** to put my life through all tests in the past years. Thank you so much Dear Lord.*

Kinjal R.Patel