

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

It has been long years of tremendous learning for me, not just in the scientific field but also on a personal level, as I write this letter of appreciation while putting the final touches on my Ph.D. I want to remember back to persons who have been so kind and helpful to me throughout this time.

I want to start by expressing my profound thanks to Dr Nirav G. Shah, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, The M S University of Baroda for his unwavering support, inspiration, and enthusiasm. I genuinely appreciate him for guiding me through the rigorous experimental investigations when I was doing my study, analyzing my data, preparing drafts of my research publication, and producing my thesis. I am very thankful to him for always being there in my hard times for research study. For my PhD studies, I could not have asked for a greater advisor and mentor other than him. I genuinely appreciate his efforts and taking the time to edit my writing stuff. He has taught me a lot, and I'll keep learning new things from him.

I want to say thanks to Professor Dr Upendra D. Patel, a member of the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) for his many ideas and words of support. I am grateful that Professor Dr Umesh Khare, a member of DRC has given valuable input during the study. My special thanks to Professor Dr H. M. Patel and Dr Geeta S. Joshi, members of DRC for their valuable suggestions and support during the study period.

I would like to thank the Government of Gujarat for providing the Scheme Of Developing High Quality Research (SHODH) which gave me financial support for my research work.

I would like to thank Dr Vikas Patel, ERDA who helped me with SEM analysis. I would also like to thank team Neuberg Diagnostic -Centre for Genomic Medicine for helping us to carry out the metagenomic analysis. I would like to thank faculty members Dr Abhipsa Makwana and Mrs. Arti Galgale and my special thanks to laboratory staff - Mr. Sagarbhai, Mr. Dineshbhai and Mr. Ajaybhai. I would also like to thank my fellow researchers- Jahnvi, Katha, Vishwajit, Prateek, Malvi, Navneet, Mahima, Suman, Isha, Meha, Sumit and Veerbhadra.

I would like to express my gratitude to my family- my husband, my parents and my son who have fully supported me in each manner they can.

Finally, I would love to thank everyone who has helped me, whether they knew it or not. I also want to apologize if I didn't get to address everyone by name.

All of you are much appreciated.

Last but not least, I give thanks to God for giving me the perseverance and strength to go through all these years and my whole life to stand tall and proud today.

Kinjal C. Shroff