

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me a great pleasure to express my deepest sense of regard and gratitude to my esteemed research supervisor Prof. P.K.Jain and co-supervisor Dr. M. Thottappan, an eminent academician whose sharpness in observation, keen interest, perpetual inspiration and ever willing help have always remained a source of inspiration to me. Their constant supervision, excellent and co-operation were a great driving force during the course of the investigation. I must appreciate all his contributions of time, and ideas to make my Ph.D. experience productive and stimulating.

I would like to express special thanks to my colleagues Swati, Shiva, Manpuran, Gargi, Madan, Sarthak, Rajan, Anshu, Vikram, Akhilendra, Arjun, Prabhakar, Vineet, Akash and Rajnesh for giving me continuous support, creating a friendly and happy environment needed for completing my work. I wish to acknowledge support from Reetesh Ranjan for their valuable assistance. My special thanks to Rajesh Rai and Achal Srivastava for their kind co-operation and encouragement during my research work.

My deepest appreciation towards my wife Jyoti Arora for her continuous support and encouragement. She always being a source of strength for me and still remain an invaluable asset to me. I am very thankful to my close friends Ashish Shastri, Abhishek Jain, Ruchin Kacker, Raj Anand and Sameer Sharma who helped me a lot in every phase of my life during the last four years. I have a deep appreciation for my brothers (Sumit, Lalit and Ashish), sister Neelam and brother-in-law Rajiv Raj Chaudhary for providing enormous moral support to me. I wish to thank my grandparent, parent, uncle, aunty, father-in law and mother-in law for their inspiration and moral support. I wish to express indebtedness to all my teachers, family members for their unconditional love, extreme patience and constant supports over the years.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest love to my sweet daughter Navya for her continuous patience during the entire duration of my PhD.

Last but not least, I thank almighty God for providing me strength and courage in completing the work.

***Date: Oct., 29, 2016***

***(Amit Arora)***