

Acknowledgements

Foremost, I would like to pay my tribute to the founder of the Banaras Hindu University, Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviyaji whose thoughts and values encourage students to give their best and contribute to the nation building. I am very thankful and proud of the education I received at the Banaras Hindu University.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my revered supervisor, Prof. B. Mishra for his continuous support during my Ph.D. study and research, for his patience, motivation, and immense knowledge. His guidance helped me during the time of research and writing of this thesis. Without his supervision and constant help this dissertation would not have been possible.

I am also grateful to Prof. S.K. Singh, Head, Department of Pharmaceutics, Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) for allowing me to use the Departmental facilities for carrying out my research work.

I owe my gratitude to all my respected RPEC members Prof. Sanjay Singh, Dr. Abha Mishra (Biochem Engg.) and all others for their encouragement and insightful comments leading me to the completion of the research work. I would also like to thank all the teachers Prof. S.K. Shrivastava, Dr. S. Hemlatha, Dr. K. Sairam, Dr. Senthil Raja, Mr. A.N Sahu, Dr. S.K. Mishra, Mrs. Ruchi Chawla, Dr. Prasanta Kumar Nayak, Dr. M.S. Muthu, Dr. Gyan Prakash Modi and Dr. Ashok Maurya.

I take the opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the University Grants Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, for providing financial support in the form of Research Fellowship that immensely helped me to achieve my goals. I also thank the Department of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi and IIT (BHU) for awarding me travel grant to attend international conference. I am also thankful to Prof. P. K. Mishra, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT (BHU) for providing Electrospinning facility.

I pay my sincere thanks to Mr. Virendra, Mr. Chotelal, (late), Mr. Nandlal, Mr. Madan, Mr. Upadhya, Mr. Sanjeev, Mr. Yashwant, Mr. Jameel, Mr. Pathak, Mr. Rafeeq, Mr. Kapil, Mr. Arun, Mrs. Saroj Kumari, Mrs. Archana Singh, Mr. Atul, Mr. Anand and all other non-teaching staff of the Department for their assistance and co-operation during the Ph.D. tenure.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution of my seniors & batch-mates Dr. Priyanka Ma'am, Dr. Anupam Sir, Dr. Nagendra Sir, Dr. Sandeep Sir, Dr. Dileep Sir, Dr. Sanjay Sir, Dr. Vijay Sir, Ms. Sarita Ma'am, Dr. Ravi, Mr. Ramoji Kosuru, and it is not sufficient to express my gratitude with only a few words. They have always been there to

motivate me during the hour of hardship and helped me unconditionally throughout the tenure.

I am indeed thankful to have got welcoming and friendly fellow mates Mr. Gunjan, Mr. Gufran, Ms. Pooja, Ms. Juhi, Mr. Sathish, Ms. Mansi, Mr. Sandeep Mr. Harsh, Ms. Khushboo and Mr. Nitin who were ever ready to provide me with all possible help and they created a happy working environment and foster camaraderie within the laboratory. I am thankful to Mr. Piyoosh Sir for tireless help in thesis compilation.

I would also like to express my thanks to my supportive seniors: Dr. Rahul Tripathi, Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, Dr. Madhusmita Mishra, Dr. Pramila Chaubey, Dr. Satyendra Prasad, Dr. Damikji Laloo, Dr. Manish Kumar, Dr. Amit Mishra, Dr. Ahint Jain, Dr. Dinesh Patel, Dr. Gulam Hussian and to name a few seniors of the Department who were always there with a helping attitude whenever I was in need.

My heartfelt thanks to all my teachers right from school until now for their keen interest, constant encouragement, and wishes for my career.

I owe my deepest gratitude to my Parents for being a constant source of encouragement and support throughout my life. Their silent sacrifice, moral support, and encouragement cannot be defined in words. It is their love and trust on my abilities which has made me a person I am today. They backed my decision in all peaks and troughs of my life and made it a smooth journey for me. I also offer my sincere gratitude to my paternal as well as maternal grandparents. They are like canopy of a life tree providing me their shade of love & care. They have been a constant source of inspiration & guidance through ups & downs of my life. Words fall short to thank my wife for her unflinching love, support, and care, whose presence in my life has given a meaning to my existence and has completely changed me as a person.

Last but not the least, I pray God for the animals who were mortified for the cause of research and advancement of knowledge. I wish for their soul to rest in peace.

Date :

Place :

(Gayasuddin Khan)

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List of Abbreviations & Symbols

%	: Percentage
°	: Degree
µg	: Microgram
AFM	: Atomic force microscopy
ANOVA	: Analysis of variance
AUC	: Area under the curve
C	: Celsius
CH	: Chitosan
cm	: Centimeter
C _{max}	: Peak plasma concentration
CLSM	: Confocal laser scanning microscopy
DoE	: Design of Experiment
DSC	: Differential scanning calorimetry
DW	: Distilled water
EE	: Entrapment Efficiency
FT-IR	: Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy
GE	: Gelatin
hr	: Hour
KBr	: Potassium bromide
kV	: Kilo volt
LOD	: Limit of detection
LOQ	: Limit of quantification
ml	: Milliliter
min	: Minute
mm	: Millimeter
mg	: Milligram
PCL	: Poly (ε-caprolactone)
pKa	: Acid dissociation Constant
OVAT	: One variable at a time
PXRD	: Powder X-Ray Diffraction
R ²	: Correlation coefficient
RSD	: Relative standard deviation

RSM	:	Response surface methodology
RPM	:	Rotation per minute
RH	:	Relative humidity
SD	:	Standard deviation
SEM	:	Standard error mean
SRP	:	Scaling & Root Planing
TNZ	:	Tinidazole
TNZ-PCLNF	:	Tinidazole loaded Poly (ϵ -caprolactone) Nanofiber
TNZ-PGHNF	:	Tinidazole loaded Poly (ϵ -caprolactone) Gelatin hybrid Nanofiber
TNZ-PCHNF	:	Tinidazole loaded Poly (ϵ -caprolactone) Chitosan hybrid Nanofiber
T _g	:	Glass transition temperature
T _{max}	:	Time for Peak Concentration
t _{1/2}	:	Half life
PXRD	:	Powder X-ray diffraction
UV	:	Ultraviolet
λ_{max}	:	Wavelength maxima
w/w	:	weight/weight
w/v	:	weight/volume
v/v	:	volume/volume

Preface

According to the WHO report, dental caries was the most prevalent condition (affecting 35% of the population), whereas severe periodontitis and severe tooth loss were the 6th and 36th most pervasive conditions affecting 11% and 2% of the population, respectively. This problem is particularly grave and alarming owing to the proximate relationship that exists between oral health and systemic health. It has also been reported that periodontal issues may aggravate cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus and low birth weight or even preterm birth of children. Therefore, timely treatment of periodontal disease is essential.

The aim of present study was to alleviate existing shortcomings in treatment of periodontitis related to systemic administration of Tinidazole (TNZ) by using a more competent approach for the drug to reach the site of infection deep inside the periodontal pockets. So, in the present research work, an attempt has been made to formulate TNZ loaded electrospun nanofiber membrane which deliver TNZ with slow rate locally in the periodontal pocket and maintain therapeutic drug concentration for treatment duration and thus, to reduce dose size and dosing frequency as well as improve patient compliance. In this context, rigorous literature survey was accomplished with special emphasis on nanofiber based drug delivery systems. Additional efforts was attempted to collect details of drug, polymers, solvent and other excipients.

TNZ is one of the most pervasively used antimicrobial agents against anaerobic periodontal pathogens. It is a 5-nitroimidazole derivative with a half-life of 12–14 hr. It has a longer half-life and higher bioavailability which makes it a promising antimicrobial agent for periodontitis treatment. Although majority of the TNZ formulations are available as oral dosage forms, these formulations not only result in a low concentration of TNZ in gingival crevicular fluid (GCF) but also causes undesired side effects.

The entire research work has been carried out systematically in three steps. First; TNZ loaded poly (ϵ -caprolactone) nanofiber (TNZ-PCLNF), second; TNZ loaded gelatin-poly (ϵ -caprolactone) hybrid nanofiber (TNZ-PGHNF) and lastly; TNZ loaded chitosan-poly (ϵ -caprolactone) hybrid nanofiber (TNZ-PCHNF) were prepared and optimized by using Box-Behnken experimental design tool. Moreover, the optimized formulations were extensively evaluated for solid state characterization, *in vitro* and *in vivo* evaluation, and the results were discussed profoundly.

The goals of the present study were achieved successfully by design and development of novel biodegradable nanofiber membranes of TNZ. The developed formulations were subjected to various preclinical and clinical studies and their outcomes suggested the potential of developed drug delivery systems for the better treatment of periodontitis.