ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I offer my gratitude to the Almighty, who has blessed me with this wonderful life, and the strength to successfully complete this Ph.D. journey.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to my Ph.D supervisor, Prof. Ashis Kumar Mukherjee, for introducing me to the enthralling field of snake venom. His constant guidance, valuable suggestions, supreme encouragement, and support have helped me in understanding the multifaceted subject of snake venom biochemistry and development of drug prototypes from snake venom during my Ph.D. tenure. His words, deeds, and value for time and hard work have always been an inspiration for me to move forward in every aspect. I have thoroughly enjoyed working under his able guidance and consider myself very fortunate for this opportunity. Apart from being an excellent supervisor, he has always been an affectionate mentor for the help he has provided in every moment of need.

I am grateful to Prof. Vinod K. Jain, Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University, and Prof. Mihir K. Choudhari, ex-Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University, for providing me the opportunity to pursue my doctoral degree at this esteemed University. The beautiful environment encompasses a wellequipped infrastructure for the researchers thus providing an active environment for research.

I extend my gratitude to the Heads of the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Tezpur University for providing the necessary facilities to carry out my research during the entire tenure of my Ph.D. I also express my sincere gratitude to the members of my Doctoral Committee - Prof. Swapan K. Dolui, Department of Chemical Sciences, Prof. Suvendra K. Ray, Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, and Dr. Sougata Saha, Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, for their valuable suggestions and constructive criticisms of my work throughout the tenure. I would also like to thank all the faculty members of the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology for their constant support and encouragement.

I offer my special thanks to Dr. Suman Dasgupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology for providing extensive help with the experiments related to cytotoxicity assessment and immunofluorescence studies on L6 cell lines. Also I sincerely acknowledge Prof. Siddhartha S. Ghosh, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati for providing the necessary instrumentation and laboratory facilites to perform MALDI-ToF-MS, circular dichroism, flow cytometry analyses and confocal microscopy; Dr. Biplab Bose, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati for the help in performing and analyzing the surface plasmon resonance experiment and data and Dr. Pronobesh Chattopadhyay, Defense Research Laboratory, Tezpur for providing the opportunity to work at the animal facility of the institute to carry out in vivo studies.

I also take this opportunity to thank Dr. K.K. Hazarika, Dr. N.K. Bordoloi, Mr. S. Kakoty, and Mrs. P. Talukdar for providing all technical help to successfully carry out my research work. My special thanks go to Mr. P. Mudoi, Technical Assistant, who has always provided sincere help in performing the spectrofluorometric analyses. Also I extend my thanks to Dr. Mahesh Agarwal, Dr. Neha Arora, and Mr. Anil P. Bidkar from Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati; Dr. Johirul Islam and Ms. Pompy Patowary from Defense Research Laboratory, Tezpur, for their kind support to carry out the necessary experiments in their institutes.

I sincerely thank all my lab seniors Dr. Debashree Saikia Sharma, Dr. Jetendra K. Roy, Dr. Rupamoni Thakur Dutta and Dr. Sourav Majumdar for helping me in learning the different experimental techniques to carry out my research. Special thanks to Debashree ba and Rupamoni ba for the unconditional support they have provided to me in every aspect. Sincere thanks to Late (Ms.) Bandana Bora and Mr. Debananda Gogoi for their kind words, moral support, and indefinite love at every moment of need. I extend my gratitude to a bunch of lovely and supportive lab colleagues Mr. Bhargab Kalita, Mr. Taufikul Islam, Mr. Abhishek Chanda, Mr. Aparup Patra, Ms. Bhabana Das, and Ms. Nitisha Boro, for maintaining a lively and cheerful atmosphere in the laboratory. Also I thank Ms. Swagata Das, Ms. Rijuana Akhtar Faruqui, and Ms. Dev Madhubala for their kind support.

Sincere gratitude to my seniors (Diganta da, Late Maitreyee ba, Pranjal da, Simran ba, Yutika ba, and Saurav da), friends (Tarinee, Debashree, Pankaj, Saurav, Akash, Dhrubajyoti, and Bikash) and juniors (Minhaz, Urbashi, Kamalakshi, Pitambar, Dipanjan, and Nigar) for their endless love and support towards me. I specially thank Reshmi and Muktashree for always being there at my time of need.

I sincerely thank my younger sister Sujata, who has been a constant source of encouragement at all my good and bad times. Her confidence and faith in me makes me stronger every day.

Last but not the least, I sincerely acknowledge the financial head of Tezpur University for providing the institutional fellowship (Aug-Sept, 2013), Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi for providing the INSPIRE fellowship (Oct, 2013-Sept, 2018) and Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi for project fellowship (Dec 15, 2018-Jan 14, 2019) during the tenure of my research.

Place: Tezpur Date:

(Sumita Dutta)