

DEDICATION

During the difficult and trying times of my life, one person has always been standing by my side. I would like to dedicate this thesis to my mother Bina Pathak. Apart from her, another strong and supportive woman has a very special place in my mind. Without the love and support of my grandmother Protima Dutta, I would not be who I am today. My childhood time shared together with her has a lasting contribution in my life and will be felt forever.