ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I devote all my achievements to Almighty whose blessings were with me all through the course of this investigation.

It was my great fortune to have Professor H.S. Maheshwari and Dr. R. K. Johri as my supervisors. I have received their immense help, constructive advice and focussed guidance during the entire period of this investigation. I extend my profound gratitude and heartiest thanks to them.

I hereby take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Dr D.K. Mukharya, former H.O.D. and other teachers, office and laboratory staff of Department of Criminology and Forensic Science for their guidance and cooperation extended during the course of this investigation.

I am highly thankful to Dr. G. N. Qazi, Director, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu for providing lab facilities.

I am obliged to Dr. Mrs. Sarojini Johri, for her suggestions and willingness to help me through this investigation.

It is a pleasure to place on record my special thanks and gratitude to two great friends Kaiser and Reeta for their selfless help and keen interest in this investigation, which has been a constant encouragement to me.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the selfless help, constructive criticism, useful suggestions, constant cooperation extended throughout the research tenure by my colleagues and friends, Supriya, Rinku, Rashmi, Raj, Nandan, Vijay, Neeti, Naobi, Deep, Rakesh, Laloo baiya and Mulk Raj.
The constant co-ordination and support extended by Mr. Abdul Rahim, Dr. D. K. Gupta, Dr Jyotsna Suri, Mr. K. A. Qureshi, Dr. S.C. Sharma, Mr Ashok Tikoo, Mr Manoj Tikoo, Mr Rajneesh Anand, Dr. Ravi Khajuria, Mr. Zabeer Ahmed Mr Sharief Khan, Mr. Dubey, Mr Jain and Dr. G. D. Singh deserve a special mention.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to Mrs and Dr. Johri for their loving care, constant inspiration, continuos help and moral support during some tough times.

I also greatly acknowledge, Dr. T. D. Dogra, Dr. Anupama Raina, Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, Dr. Sandhya, Department of Molecular Reproduction, Development and Genetics, Indian Institute Of Sciences (IISc), Bangalore, Dr. Nanda Joshi and Dr Mrs. Preeti Joshi, Department of Biophysics, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHNS), Bangalore, Dr Vijay Kumar, Dept. of Virology, International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi, for creative suggestions and introducing me to the latest scientific techniques.

Lastly I express my thank to all who helped me directly or indirectly for the completion of this work.

Tasduq Abdullah