Acknowledgements

My association with Dr. Manjula Sritharan has all through been of immense value and her professional and personal guidance will go a long way in all my future endeavors both professional as well as personal life. Her continuous encouragement, unstinted support, love and affection have been the driving forces for me. She taught me planning experiments, collecting and analyzing data and writing papers.

I am extremely thankful to Prof. S. Dayananda, Head of the Department and his predecessors, Prof Aparna Dutta Gupta and Late Prof. Radha Krishna Murthy for giving opportunity to work with the department facilities.

I would like to thank Prof. A.S. Raghavendra, Dean, and his predecessor Prof. T. Suryanarayana for providing me with the facilities in the school.

The valuable suggestions provided by Prof. Aparna Dutta Gupta and Dr. Venkata Ramana, members of the Doctoral Committee, have really helped me in shaping my work and I am extremely thankful to them. I would like to thank Prof P. Reddanna, and faculty Department of Animal Sciences, for their timely help and suggestions.

I would like to thank all the faculty members of School of Life Sciences for allowing me to work in their labs as and when required. Prof. Ramanadham and Prof. K.V. Ramaiah and their groups have been kind enough in allowing me to use their cell culture facility and Two dimensional system that has helped my work immensely and I am very thankful to them for the same.

The samples collected from Government Chest Hospital have been given important inputs into my work and I would like to thank Prof. T. Venu, Superintendent Government General Chest Hospital for facilitating the same. I would like to thank Dr. Rajya Lakshmi, Medical officer DOTS-TU for guiding me in sample collection.

I would like to thank Prof. C. R. Rao Department of MCIS, for his valuable guidance in statistical analysis. I am thankful to Dr. Nagendra, Indian Immunological Ltd for his help in the analysis of the ELISA data.

Working with my lab mates Veena, Swapna, Sridhar, Sundaram, Pandey, Suneel and Subha has been very lively and am extremely thankful for their support and academic interaction. I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Priya Thomas for her suggestions in reviewing the thesis.
I take the privilege to thank all the friends, School of Life Sciences for their support and “every little help” in making most of experiments possible. wish to thank all other friends of University of Hyderabad for their company to make my stay here a pleasant and memorable experience.

I would like to extend my thanks to Chandram for active assistance in the lab. I would like to thank the non-teaching staff of our School. I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ankineedu, Mrs. Bhargavi, Mr. Babu Rao, Mr. Lallan, Mr. Jagan, Mr. Gopi, Mr. Joseph, Mr. Pandu for their help in all the administrative work.

The financial support from UGC-CSIR during my Ph.D is highly acknowledged.

I would like to thank all the donors (sample collection) who had formed part of this study.

My parents (Mr Vijaya Ramayya and Ms Lakshmi) and my husband Murali Mohana Rao have always been my source of strength. I thank them for showing me the way and hope to reach heights that make them proud. I must thank my sister Aparna, brother Shyam and my in-laws for their understanding and support. If not for the support, understanding and encouragement of my family, this thesis would have only remained a dream.

Sridevi Duggirala