Acknowledgements

My foremost gratitude goes to the Almighty God who has continued to bless me with the wisdom and strength to complete this piece of research work successfully.

I express my deep sense of gratefulness and gratitude to my Supervisor, Dr. B. P. Mishra, Ex – Head & Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Mizoram University, Aizawl and my Joint Supervisor Professor Kamlakar Tripathi, Department of Medicine, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for their vigilant supervision, excellent guidance and scholarly suggestions during the entire period of my Ph.D. work.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. H. Lalramghinglova, Head, Department of Environmental Science, Mizoram University, Aizawl who gave me an opportunity to conduct the present research work in a prestigious institution which has made its presence felt in whole of the academic fraternity right from its inception to the present grandeur.

I extend my thanks to all teaching and non-teaching staff of the Department of Environmental Science, Mizoram University, Aizawl. The assistance received from Dr. Lalchhuanawma (Technical Assistant), Mr. Vanlalfela Sailo (Laboratory Assistant), Mr. R. Lalchhanhima (Research Assistant) and Mrs. Judy Lalhlimpuii Thangluah (LDC), is highly appreciated.

My sincere thanks to Prof. Jitendra Kumar, Department of Science, Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, for his help and advice that made this work possible.

I express my special thanks to Dr. Manish Mishra, UGC-Dr. D. S. Kothari Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biochemistry, Banaras Hindu University for being supportive and constantly helpful at each step during compilation of the thesis and statistical analyses.
I am grateful to Dr. T.B. Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University for his constant guidance in analytical work throughout the study.

I thank the Research Scholars namely, Mr. Hemant Kumar, Mrs. Deepa Pokharia and Mr. Awadhesh Arya, of the Department of Medicines, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, for their help and support in smooth conduct of this study.

I wish to express my profound gratitude and thankfulness to my family members who suffered a lot specially my mother Smt. Ritu Tripathi and wife Dr. Ruchi Tripathi, for their constant help and support for computer work without which it would have been impossible to carry out this work. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not express my thanks to my sister Smt. Shweta Shukla, her husband Mr. Devesh Shukla and her kids Duldul and Choti.

Special thanks to Mr. Neeraj for his meticulous computer work which helped me in bringing out this work in its present form.

Last but not the least, I gratefully acknowledge the patients from Aizawl as well Varanasi, who willingly contributed towards submission of duly completed questionnaire and cooperated in collection of samples.

Aizawl

Shailendra Kumar Tripathi

Jan 2011