

Acknowledgement

Here I am, all set to present my 'magnum opus', which in essence is a summary of 5 years of the support that I received from multitude of people and the hard work in the name of research. I am indebted to express my heartfelt gratitude to one and all, for, the help, blessings and support of each individual that I interacted with during my tenure as a research fellow is invaluable and unforgettable.

First of all, I am thankful to my supervisor Dr. G. K. Jain for agreeing to guide me through my doctoral research. His constant guidance, words of wisdom, encouragement and critical suggestions have been of immense help in shaping my work. I am indebted to him for the alacrity with which he read through and corrected my thesis manuscript, for having faith in my abilities and giving me credit whenever it was due.

I am grateful to Dr. T. K. Chakraborty, Director, C.D.R.I, and Dr. C. M. Gupta, former Director, C.D.R.I, for providing me the opportunity, infrastructure and excellent facilities to conduct high quality research.

I am thankful to Government of India and C.S.I.R., New Delhi for the excellent support system they provide for young researchers. This research would not have been possible without the fellowship and necessary infrastructure provided by them.

I am grateful to Dr. S. K. Singh, Dr. J. Lal, Dr. R. S. Bhatta and Mr. Wahajuddin for their kind support and suggestions.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Naibedya Chattopadhyaya and Dr. Divya Singh, Endocrinology Division; Dr. Rakesh Maurya and Dr. Atul Goel, Medicinal and Process Chemistry Division for their valuable support and timely help in obtaining required laboratory samples for my research.

I am thankful to Dr. D. S. Upadhyaya, Mr. K. Roy, Mr. Narendra Kumar, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar and Mr. Dubey, Laboratory Animals Division, for providing necessary animals for my experiments.

I am also grateful to Dr. Alka Singh and Dr. Sheela Ghosal, JNU Cell, for their kind support.

I would like to thank my seniors Dr. Satyawan, Dr. Satyendra and Mrs. Deepali for their suggestions and scientific and technical help during the initial period of my work which was instrumental in strengthening the depth of understanding in my field research.

I am thankful to my friends Nagsen, Smriti, Amruta and Sonal for their help and support. Not only have their suggestions and advises been of great help in my research work, but also have been great stress busters during tough times.

I am also thankful to my labmates Devendra, Sheelendra, Hari Narayan, Yash Pal, Amrita, Anamika and Deepak for their co-operation and support.

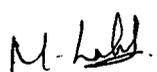
I wish to express my thanks to trainees Praveen, Sudeepa, Gopichand, Shashikant, Arti, Sreekala; students from NIPER, Rae Bareli (Batch: 2009-2010, 2010-2011) and other institutes for their cheerful and enthusiastic co-operation.

I am thankful to Mr. S. K. Pandey, Mr. Narendra, Mr. Akhilesh and Mrs. Nandita for their help and support. I am also thankful to technical staff Mr. Shivlal, Mr. Rambhajan, Mr. Sunder and Mr. Chandramani for their timely help in doing my experiments.

I am thankful to my friends and well wishers Dr. Raja Solomon, Dr. Vasant, Mrs. Manavi, Mrs. Vidisha, Mrs. Preetha, Dr. Akanksha and Dr. Mandakini for their cheerful and encouraging words and support.

Words are less to express gratitude to my family members. My parents have been a pillar of strength at every stage in my life. Their affection, care, blessings, prayers and encouragement has always helped me in every step of my life. My husband has been more of a friend, an honest critique and a good motivator during tough times. I thank him and my mother-in-law for their care, patience and support.

Finally, I would like to express my humble thanks to God for blessing me with kind and caring friends, supportive family and strength to walk through this phase of my life.


(M. Lakshmi)

*DEDICATED TO
MY FAMILY*