ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I acknowledge the GREAT ALMIGHTY GOD, whose blessings provided me the enthusiastic passion, uninterrupted strength and indispensable patience needed to begin my project work and end it successfully.

The foregoing words are inadequate to express my deep sense of indebtedness to my supervisor Dr. Vijendra Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, for his solemn efforts, excellent guidance, steadfast encouragement, constructive criticism and meticulous supervision throughout this research work. Without his constant encouragement, it would not have been possible to submit this thesis within this time period.

I am highly thankful to my co-supervisor Dr. Shailja Pant, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Dolphin (P.G.) Institute of Biomedical and Natural Sciences, Dehradun who, encouraged and supported me throughout the period of research work.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Rishi Saxena, Head of the Department of Microbiology for his suggestions, timely help and providing necessary laboratory facilities during the course of this study. My sincere gratefulness to Dr. Vevek Bajpai and Dr. Sangeeta Lal faculty members of Department of Microbiology, whose useful suggestions and help enabled the progress of this work. I would also like to thank Mr. Hakim Singh, Laboratory Assistant, Department of Microbiology Bundelkhand University, Jhansi for his timely help.
I gratefully acknowledge the support and cooperation throughout my research tenure rendered by my co-workers and friends.

It is my pleasure to place deep sense of gratitude to my parents and family members for their love, encouragement and for being a source of strength and motivation over the years in every walk of my life. Contributions of my lovely daughter Anushka and wife Sarita were outstanding and marvelous.

With the help of not one but all, I have successfully completed this research work.

Dated: OCT 31, 2008

(TEJPAL DHEWA)