ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am ever grateful to Waheguru ji the Creator and the Guardian, to whom I owe my very existence and enabled me to ascend another step of my destination by accomplishing this piece of work.

This is perhaps the easiest and hardest part that I have to write. There are a lot of people I would like to thank for many reasons. It will be simple to name all the people that helped to get this done, but it will be tough to thank them enough.

It is my kind privilege for having worked under the expert guidance of Prof. (Dr) Arvinder Kaur, who is a great source of inspiration for me in the field of aquatic toxicology. I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my Ph. D. and without her knowledge, perceptiveess and unstinting commitment, this work would have been difficult to complete. It is a moment of great pleasure for me to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my supervisor for the precious guidance and untiring attention which bequeathed on me right from the inception to the successful completion of this research work. Her practical suggestions, creative criticisms, patience, dedication have been an enriching and unique experience, which I shall cherish for a long time to come. I am thankful to her from the core of my heart for her every time support, love and trust for me. I dedicate all my research work to her as without her assistance this work would not have accomplished. I always pray to God to shower his blessings on my respected mam with lots of success and happiness in her life. Words will fall short to express my love and respect for her family.

I sincerely thank Prof. (Dr) Satwinder Kaur Dhillon, Prof. (Dr) Anish Dua, Prof. (Dr) Sanehdeep Kaur, former heads of the Department of Zoology and I also wish to express my appreciation and indebtedness to all the faculty members (Dr Pooja Chadha and Dr Puja Ohri) for their ever encouraging help during progress of my present work.

My heartfelt thanks to non-teaching staff (S. Gurpreet Singh, S. Vikramjit Singh Sandhu, Ashwani Sir and Davinder Bhaji) of the department for helping me in one way or other during the course of my work.

I am highly grateful to Dr TK Das, Dr Naag for their wide knowledge, guidance and indulgent support throughout the study and all other faculty members and staff of electron microscope facility, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

I owe my sincere thanks to Dr Naresh Meeshram, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), PUSA, New Delhi for his kind help and cooperation in SEM studies. I am also thankful to Mr Kawal, at the Central Instrumentation Facility, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar for help in SEM photography.

I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to Dr Jasjit Kaur Randhawa (HOD) and other faculty members, Khalsa College, Amritsar, without whose pleasant cooperation and immense support the present work could not have been a success. I am whole heartedly indebted to her for being a helping hand towards me whenever I asked for any kind of assistance for my thesis compilation. It’s just because of Head Mam, Dr Jaswinder Singh, Dr Zorawar Singh, Dr Amandeep Singh, Prof. Randeep Singh and efficient staff cooperation that I could submit my thesis during my job period. Heartiest thanks to you mam for being so cooperative.

I am also thankful to Dr Hardev Singh (Senior Fishery Officer), Government Fish Farm, Rajasansi, Amritsar, for providing me fishes whenever I requested. Experiments were successful just because of the timely model animals given by him to me to carry out my research work.
I am deeply indebted to my respected senior Prof. (Dr) Jaswinder Singh (young scientist awardee by Elsevier), Khalsa College, Amritsar, who is a renowned scientist as well as teacher, for his cooperation, encouragement, constructive comments and guidance from time to time. I really feel lucky to have him as my senior who is so hardworking i have ever seen (after my supervisor) in my life. Sir is different from every aspect and always encourage students to do work with will power, dedication and determination. I always wish and pray to Waheguru Ji that he keeps showering his blessings on you and mam with more of the success and I wish that one day he will get Nobel Prize for his outstanding contributions towards research.

A special thanks to my seniors Dr Amrit, Dr Ruchi, Dr Rajbir, Dr Ravinder, Dr Madhu and Dr Abhinay Thakur for their immaculate help, valuable suggestions and many helpful comments.

I would like to thank deeply my dear most friend Dr Satinder Kaur Pannu without whom none of this would have been even possible. Reinforcing my spirits at some crucial junctures, putting up with my bad temper at times, she provided much encouragement throughout the largest part of this research work. Perhaps this thesis would not have survived some of the more trying times during the process of writing up if it had not been for her unquestioning support. I am also thankful to my very close friends Dr (Mrs) Inderpreet Kaur and her family from Chohla Sahib, Dr (Mrs) Rajbir Kaur for their love, care and support during the entire course of my studies. They stood by me through the ups and downs to help me accomplish my task successfully. Many efforts are backed by the support of these dear ones professionally as well as personally. Gonna miss you always.

I am grateful to my colleagues Ms Ramandeep, Mrs Manveen Arora, Ms Prabha, Ms Mandeep, Ms Tamanreet and My juniors Ms Amandeep, Kirpal, Owias, Rahul, Shalima, Nalini, Shivali, Anjali, Mandeep for their pleasant cooperation and generous help during all times.

I am also thankful to Ms Sakshi Verma (Research Scholar), Punjab University, Chandigarh, for her concern and cooperation throughout this work.

I am also thankful to my loving friends Aman, Kulwinder, Shiva, Simran and Suman for supporting me emotionally whenever I was in stress. God bless you all.

I am also highly thankful to Subash bhaji and Maninder bhaji for their everytime support, patient attitude during my research work and for compiling my thesis so efficiently.

Not forgetting the ones who have brought me to this day of my life my respectable, Mom and Dad, my emotional backbone, which gave me wings to complete my dream of study. I find it hard to verbalize my deepest indebtedness to them for their boundless love, support, care, understanding and patience that really helped me to complete this venture. I thank my loving brother S. Gupreet Singh, for cheering me up at the tough times. I thank my relatives (Nanke), especially all my loving mamus for giving me support, love and believing in my capabilities. Many efforts were backed by the support of my dear brother S. Kuljit Singh (SRF). NIPER, Mohali, during my study. God bless you both.

Finally, the silent sacrifice of docile, helpless creatures that have laid to rest till eternity is acknowledged with a heavy heart.

Dated: ............

Kirandeep Kaur