ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The task of initiating, implementing and completing the herculean task of my doctoral work would not have been made possible without the guidance and help of several individuals both in the professional and personal front. I am indebted to each one of them and wish to express my sincere gratitude for their valuable assistance, unconditional support and optimistic encouragement, enabling me achieve this goal.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our respected Chancellor Thiru.V.R.Venkataachalam for providing us with world class infrastructure, highly qualified & motivated faculty, funding opportunities and congenial environment which encouraged me to pursue Ph D.

I would like to profusely thank the management for the support and encouragement provided by Dr. T. K. Parthasarathy (Professor of Eminence & Chief Advisor), Dr. S. P. Thyagarajan (Professor of Eminence & Dean [Research]), Dr. J. S. N. Murthy (Vice Chancellor), Dr. K. V. Somasundaram (Dean of Faculties), Dr. P. V. Vijayaraghavan (Dean Education & Director [Academic Administration]), Dr. Anandan (Dean-Medical College), Dr.D.Kandaswamy (Dean - Dental College),
Thiru. N. Natarajan (Registrar) and Dr. D. Prathiba (Controller of Examinations).

I thank Dr. P. V. Vijayaraghavan (Dean Education & Director [Academic Administration]) for his unconditional support and valuable guidance throughout this study.

I thank Prof. S. Rangaswami (Professor of Eminence-Medical Education) for his intellectual inputs which made this study more scientific and meaningful.

I would like to sincerely thank my Guide Dr. (Mrs.) R.Padmavathi, Associate Dean – PG studies (Basic Medical Sciences), Professor and Head, Department of Physiology for mentoring me in the world of research. Her expertise, scholarly guidance, untiring efforts, friendly approach and steadfast encouragement from inception to completion of this doctoral program has helped me enormously in successfully completing this thesis. Her dedication, professional ethics and scientific approach showed me a new dimension to the meaning and importance of research. She kept my curiosity alive and empowered me to find answers for innumerable questions. She always focused on improving my strengths while educating me to overcome my weaknesses which enabled me to present in conferences and publish research papers. She always maintained high-energy and enthusiasm which was a constant source of inspiration for me to achieve this most important milestone of my lifetime.
I would like to sincerely thank my Co-Guide **Dr. B.W.C. Sathiyasekaran**, Professor of Community Medicine for his constructive feedback and intellectual input during every step of this study aligning all the components of the research question namely objectives, methodology and outcomes. His constant reinforcement on research ethics and appropriate statistics shaped up this thesis to a higher level of scientific acceptance. I thank him for being approachable and available all the time and guiding me to address the critical issues which are inherent to educational research. I also thank him for inculcating the habit of scientific inquiry in me.

I sincerely thank my Research Advisor **Dr. K.N. Maruthy**, Professor, Department of Physiology, Narayana Medical College, Nellore for not only providing me with simple yet effective technical gadgets but also guiding me to overcome all technical difficulties throughout this study.

I thank all the members of **Medical Education Unit** of Sri Ramachandra University for their constant support and encouragement in all my professional endeavors.

I express my gratitude to all the faculty of **PSG-FAIMER** for enlightening me on various pedagogical principles of Medical Education and Educational Research.
I am thankful to Central Research Facility of Sri Ramachandra University for providing me ‘GATE’ funding which enabled me to meet part of the expenses related to this study.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. (Lt Col) T.Vijaya Sagar, Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy for mentoring me in the pedagogical principles of e-learning and MOODLE. This study would not have been possible without his constant and tireless efforts to launch e-learning portal of Sri Ramachandra University.

I thank Dr.Abirami.V for her unconditional support during the process of data collection.

I thank Mr.Mahesh, Mr. Srihari, Ms. Gowdhami, Ms. Smisha Mohan, Ms. Lalitha and all Postgraduates of Department of Physiology for their effective contribution in the process of data collection and data entry.

I thank Mrs. Jayashree of ‘edit-n-stat’, Dr.Krishnan and Mr.Mahesh for helping me in the process of statistical analysis.

I thank Dr. A. S. Subhashini, former Professor of Physiology for her support and encouragement.

I express my sincere gratitude to all the Faculty, Postgraduates and non-teaching staff of Department of Physiology for sharing my
responsibilities during the process of this study and extending unconditional support.

I thank all the **study participants** for actively participating in the study and providing constructive feedback.

I thank the animation team, especially **Mr. Bharath** and **Mr. Godwin** who taught me the intricacies of animation.

Special thanks to my family - **Father in law**, **Mother in law**, **Husband**, **Children** and my **Parents** for providing me with lots of love, moral and emotional support.

Above all I thank the **Almighty** for the strength and blessings.