I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following persons

- Dr. Shyamalendu Chatterjee (ICMR Virus Unit, Kolkata), my supervisor, for his guidance, support, constant encouragement and critical supervision during the course of study.

- Prof. Ananga Mohan Chandra (Department of Physiology, University of Calcutta), my joint supervisor, for his valuable support and help.

- I am indebted to Dr. Sekhar Chakrabarti, Officer-In-Charge, ICMR Virus Unit, Kolkata, for allowing me to carry out the work in this department.

- I gratefully acknowledge the valuable help and suggestions I have received from all the Scientist of ICMR Virus Unit, Kolkata to conduct the work of my thesis.

- I express sincere gratitude to Sri Debabrata Chakraborty, Sri Arindam Sarkar and all the staff members of ICMR Virus Unit, Kolkata for their constant help and assistance to carry out the laboratory investigations.

- I present my grateful thank to my family for their encouragement and support.

- I am really thankful to my husband Mr. Arindam Bose for his continued emotional support and for his immense patience.

- I shall fail in my duties if I do not acknowledge the help, received from the doctors from different corner of this state for sending the samples of the suspected cases.

- Financial support from Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of West Bengal and CSIR, New Delhi are gratefully acknowledged.

Dijani Taraphdar