Scope of the Present Investigation
Ageing populations are largely a phenomenon of the 20th century and the numerical growth of older people around the world is an extraordinary testimony to the improvement of our lives. Between 1985 and the end of this century, we can expect an approximately 50% increase in the proportion of the population aged 65 years in the developed countries.

Although the ageing phenotype is well known, the basic nature of the ageing process is totally unknown. It is hoped that a platform is provided for an incisive study of the ageing mechanism by other biologists e.g. biochemists, physiologists, geneticists and molecular biologists (Yu, 1993).

It is a well known fact that various functions in the body are altered during ageing, especially the organ systems. Variations in lipid metabolism leads to considerable morbidity and mortality in the aged population, with cardiovascular disease being one of the major diseases afflicting our elderly all over the world. It is hoped that intervention with hypolipidemic drugs may prevent or delay the age-associated alterations in lipid metabolism and thereby reduce the risks of cardiovascular diseases in the elderly.

In this investigation, the role of L-carnitine therapy for 7 and 14 days of its administration on the altered biochemical functions during ageing as well as its impact on lipids, lipid metabolizing enzymes, lipid peroxidation and antioxidants was studied. Further, the effect of L-carnitine administration on membrane bound enzymes and nucleic acid content of liver and heart tissues was also examined for 7 and 14 days durations.

The results are discussed in the light of relevant literature.