Acknowledgements

The accomplishment of the present study became possible by the support and cooperation of many contributors associated directly or indirectly, to whom I am greatly indebted.

I feel fortunate to accomplish my research work under the dynamic guidance of Dr. Madhu Dikshit, Senior Assistant Director, Cardiovascular Unit, Division of Pharmacology, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. Words are inadequate to express my heartfelt gratitude to her for the creative guidance and support during the course of the study. Her constant encouragement was a source of inspiration for me and I shall remain ever indebted to her. I am extremely grateful to Dr. V.K. Bajpai, Scientist F, EM Unit for his valuable suggestions, constructive criticism and enthusiastic supervision of my research work.

I sincerely wish to express my thankfulness to Dr. C.M. Gupta, Director, Central Drug Research Institute for providing me permission to do my research work at his institute. I am also grateful to Dr. Ram Raghubir, Head, Division of Pharmacology, for the kind permission to utilize the facilities of the Division for my research work.

I am at loss of words in expressing my gratitude to Dr. Amogh Sahasrabuddhe for his help beyond measure, cooperation, valuable suggestions and pursuance in the fruitful completion of the study. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Gopal Pande, CCMB, Hyderabad for his concern, timely help and keen interest in my work. I am also thankful to Dr. D.K. Dikshit, Dr. Saman Habib, Dr. Kalyan Mitra, Dr. M.P. Singh, Dr. S.K. Rath, Dr. Amit Mishra, Dr. Shailja Bhattacharya, Dr. Ranjana Srivastava, Dr. Anila Dwidedi, Dr. Alka Singh for their valuable suggestions and cooperation at times of need.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my gratitude to my seniors in the lab, Dr. Prashant Sharma and Dr. Ananthavigay Raghavan for teaching me all the experimental techniques which paved me to carry my experiments comfortably. My thanks are also to seniors Drs. Manish Banerjee, Amitava Das, Deepak Rai, Soumya Saha for their scientific discussions, valuable suggestions and help in initial execution of my experiments.
I am grateful to all my colleagues and juniors in the lab, Sarika, Satyananda, Madhumita, William, Rohit and Sachin for their cooperation, encouragement, concern and timely assistance at various stages of my experiments. I am especially thankful to Aarti for helping me out with the experiments on neutrophil fractionation. I am also thankful to Naumi, Anubhav, Selwyn, Yasir, Kavya, Annamalai, Kishor, Sushmitha, and Santosh for their help and company during their short stay in the lab.

My warmest thanks are to my friends Preeti, Vandana, Swasti, Alka, Diva, Upasana, Smita, Ira, Shivani, Seema, and Sushma for the friendship and moments in the field of science as well as at times of leisure. My thanks are also due to Manish, Pawan, Ramesh, Raza, Amol, Satyawan, Gyanendra, Rahul, Vikas, Ambrish, Awadh, Ashok for their cooperation and everwilling help. I am also thankful to Poonam, Namratta, Vijay, Kiran, Shawon, Rishi, Puja, Suresh, Aanchal, Preeti, Prasuja, and Etika for lending me hand at times of need and for their wonderful company in the Division.

I am extremely grateful to all the scientists in the Division of Pharmacology for their support, keen interest and valuable suggestions rendered during the course of the study. Special thanks to Mr. C.P. Pandey for his help in providing me all the support and other requirements for doing my experiments. My sincere thanks are also to Mrs. Jharna Arun, Mrs. Kanta Bhutani, Mrs. Urmila Sharma, Mrs. Manju Bhatnagar and Mrs. T.L. Seth for their motherly attitude and for their presence which made me feel at home in the lab.

I am extremely grateful to Mrs. Abha Arya and Mrs. Madhuli Srivastava for lending me hand at times of need and for their excellent technical guidance. My thanks are also due to Mr. A.L. Viswakarma and Mrs. Madhu Chaturvedi for their technical assistance rendered to me during the flow cytometry experiments.

I am extremely grateful to all my teachers for their training and encouragement during the years of my studentship without which it would have been impossible to relish climbing the ladder of education and research.

I thank Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi for providing me financial assistance during the tenure of this dissertation.

My efforts will remain incomplete if I do not express my gratitude and indebtedness to my parents whose blessings stood by me at all odds and for their
constant inspiration and encouragement for the smooth sailing of my research work.

This long and arduous journey would have been impossible but for the understanding, continuous support and encouragement of my husband Sanjay, who dedicated his valuable years to my research. I certainly owe a great debt of gratitude to my brother Ajay, Bhabhi Anupma, Brothers in law Praveen & Naveen, nephew Ayush and niece Aneesha for their selfless love and care for my carrier. I owe a lot to my sister Shilpy who was always there to help, support and motivate me through out the entire course of my education. I express my deep sense of gratitude to my brother Jitendra who always had encouraged me and inspired me never to give up and even when he is no more with us, I still feel him to be beside me at times of despair.

Though never ending, I am thankful to the God Almighty, for putting such wonderful people in my life and bestowing His warmth and affection through them.

I am thankful to Mr. Shahid Ali, Mr. Sushil, Mr. Tiwari, Mr. Prem, for their assistance in routine lab work. I am also thankful to Mr. Kishori Lal for procuring animals and helping me with animal handling.

At last but not the least, I sincerely wish to express my gratitude to all the experimental animals for their silent sacrifice.

Rashmi Saini