ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I feel myself privileged to work under my esteemed guide Dr. M.P. Balasubramanian, M.Sc., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Environmental Toxicology, Dr. ALM Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras, Taramani, Chennai-600 113, for his inspiring guidance, healthy criticism, invaluable suggestions and constant encouragement throughout the period of study. I am indebted to him for his excellent guidance, not only in subject, but also in personal life.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. R. Venkatakrishna Murali, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology and Environmental Toxicology, Dr. ALM Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras, Taramani, Chennai-600 113, for providing the laboratory facilities and for prompt help rendered, whenever approached.

I am extremely thankful to my Doctoral committee members Dr. S. Venkataraman, M.Sc., Ph.D., D.H.Ed., M.D (MA) Director, Dr. C.L. Baid Mehta College of Pharmacy, Thoraipakkam, Chennai-600 096, for his valuable suggestions and guidance during the period of my research work.

I am grateful to Dr.(Mrs.) Ezhilarasi Balasubramanian, M.Sc., Ph.D., Reader, Department of Zoology, Ethiraj College, Chennai for her valuable suggestions and guidance during the period of my research work.

It is my pleasure to thank Dr. S.L. Maheswari, Professor, Dr. S. Karthikeyan, Senior Lecturer; Dr. Senthilkumaran Palanimuthu,
Lecturer and Dr. G. Vijayakumar Technical Officer, Department of Pharmacology and Environmental Toxicology, Dr. ALM Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras, Taramani, Chennai-600 113, for their considerable care and constant support all along my research work.

I record my heartfelt thanks to Dr. R.D. Gomathi for her support during my period of research.

I always remember my friends Mr. K. Chandra prakash, Dr.M.R.Vijayababu, Mr.T.Jayakumar, Mr.V.Ramesh, Mr.R. Jayaprakash and Mr. P. Venkataraman for their, companionship, prayers, comments, help and above all their love for my goodwill.

My colleagues who gave me the feeling of being at home at work Dr. M. Ilayaraja, Mr. C. Anbuselvam, Mr. N. Madhusudhanan, T.R. Bharath Prasad, Ms. D. Vidya, Ms. T. S. Subshani, Mr. Bharthi Karthik, Mr. S. Gowtham kumar and Mr. K. Langeswaran who stood as pillars giving unstrained and constructive encouragement and craved to see this day of life.

I would like to thank Mr. S. Mohideen, Dr. P. Elangovan and Mrs. S. Premakumari for their many discussions with me and providing the tips that helped a lot in staying on the right track.

I shall always remember my friends and well-wishers Mr. Rajendran, Mr. D. Sundersingh, Mr. V. Porchelvan, Mr. B. Anandhan, Mr. Muthusamy, Mr. R. Elangovan, Mr. K. Gobianand, Mr. Iyyappan, K. Sivarajan, Mr. P. Vivekanand, Ms. S. Priya, Ms. P. Vijayalakshmi, E. Hrishkeshan,
R.C. Vignesh, G. Krishnamoorthy and Mr. G.D. Karthikeyan for their kind co-operation and encouragement during the course of my study.

No word of formal thanks is enough towards my brothers-in-law, my brothers, my sisters and their kids whose sacrifices, compromises, affection made me to have firm grip over this target. A million thanks would not suffice to convey my gratitude to my parents Mr. M.K. Perumal Naidu and Mrs. M.P. Mohana who stood as pillars shouldering me from my ‘ABCD….. till this doctorate, stagnating dreams and craving to see me in this form. Without their sacrifices, I would not have been what I am today.

M.P. Sridhar