ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my profound heartfelt thanks to my supervisor Dr. R. Sheela Devi, Ph.D., Lecturer/Head – l/c, Department of Physiology, Dr. A. L. M. Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras, Taramani Campus, Chennai – 600 113, India, without whom this work would not have been completed successfully. I wish to express my gratitude for providing me with the necessary facilities to carry out the experiments and for his constant encouragement, valuable suggestions and advices throughout the study.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Director/Head of the Institution, Prof. M. Michael Aruldhas for permitting me to use the common facilities of the institute and for his encouragement and advices.

I wish to thank the Late. Prof. A. Namasivayam, Department of Physiology, for his encouragement, advise and help during the initial part of my work.

I wish to express my sincere thanks Head of the Anatomy Department, Prof. R. Muthusamy for his constant help, encouragement, and valuable suggestions during the course of the study.

My sincere thanks are due to Mr. R. Ravindran, for his untiring help, suggestions and encouragement.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. G. Jayaraman, Co-ordinator, Molecular Biology Programme, Department of Genetics, for his help, suggestions and advise especially for the molecular analysis part of the work.
I wish to express my sincere thanks to the doctoral committee members Dr. D.C. Mathangi and Dr. Nalini Ganesan for their suggestions, advises and encouragement throughout the study.

My gratitude is due to Dr. B. J. Dare, Veterinary Consultant and the staff member of the animal house for procuring and maintaining the animals required for my study.

My sincere thanks are due to the non-teaching staff of the Department of Physiology and also the staff of the central office, Dr. ALM PG IBMS.

My thanks are due to all my labmates, Srikumar, Jeyaparthsarathy, Senthilvelan, Muthuvel, Vijayakumar, Rajamani, Sathyanarayanan, and M.Sc., students.

I wish to thank my friends Vetrivelan, Rajiv Rose, Rave Shanker, Giridharan, Selvakumar, Vikram, Gayatri, Sethu Raman, Rameshkumar Parthiban, Gobianand, Karthikeyan, Balu, Selvakumar, Prahalathan for their constant support and encouragement throughout the study.

I wish to thank my parents, wife and daughter for their constant support, help and encouragement.