ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I pay my sincere thanks to my Guide and Supervisor Dr.T.Sundararaj, M.Sc., Ph.D., Reader Dept. of Microbiology, Dr.ALM. P.G.I.B.M.S. for shaping me as a research scholar, besides his meticulous guidance, affectionate treatment and no holds barred comments which helped in the final completion of this thesis.

It is my duty to thank Prof.S.P.Thyagarajan, M.Sc.,Ph.D., D.Sc. Head of the Dept. of Microbiology and Director of our institute permitting me to work in this department.

I deem it as a great privilege to thank Sincerely and whole heartedly Prof.P.Govindarajulu; Registrar, University of Madras and Former Director of this Institute, for his help and the permission granting the permission to work in this institute.

My thanks are due to Dr.Thangam Menon, M.Sc.,Ph.D, member of my scientific advisory committee for her valuable suggestions.

I would be failing in my duties if I do not mention the constant encouragement offered by Mrs.Aswathy Sundararaj.

The help of Dr.G.Dorren, Pathologist and her staff, Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine Hospital Royapuram, Madras in providing patient material and expert clinical opinion is hereby duly acknowledged.

I take this oppurtunity to thank Dr.V.Jayapal for his timely help and appreciating kindness.
I was gratified that many people responded to my request for help and volunteered to help in areas germane to their particular area of interest.

They are:

i) **Dr.V.K.Bhalla**, Deputy General Manager, Karnataka Antibiotics, & Pharmaceuticals Limited and **Dr.C.N.Paramasivam**, Deputy Director, Tuberculosis Research Centre for immunological reagents that was used in the standardisation of ELISA.

ii) **Dr.V.K.Vinayak**, Additional Professor, PGIMER, Chandigarh who provided me with non endemic normal patients' sera to my work.

iii) **Dr.T.Ramaswamy**, Madras Veterinary College for providing the facilities to scan the SDS - PAGE gel.

iv) **Dr.P.Kaliraj**, Reader Centre for Biotechnology for timely help in providing NUNC plates for ELISA is deeply appreciated.

v) **A.Ramesh, M.Sc.,Ph.D.** for his help in the statistical analysis of the data and also to **Prof.P.M.Gopinath** and **Dr.G.Jayaraman** Dept. of Genetics for their help.

vi) **Dr.K.Inbasagar**, I.A.S. former health Secretary to Govt. of Tamil Nadu, for granting permission to collect epidemiological data on filariasis from Corporation of Madras.

vii) **Mr.S.Thygarajan**, Health Inspector T.Nagar and his team for helping me in the collection of samples.

A special acknowledgement is due to my dear colleagues **Dr.S.Maruthupandiyian**, **Dr.Usha Gnanaselvi**, **Miss.Cecilia.S** and **Fabian D.A** for their help during the entire course of my work and also for the timely help.
The help of Research Scholars Dr.K.M.Ponnuvel, Dr.Raufif Latif, Dr.S.Sumathy, Dr.S.Jayaraman, Dr.K.Udyashankar, Mr.Gopalkrishna, K.V.K.Mohan, S.Dhamodaran, K.Vijaya, S.Ananthasubramaniyan, R.Siva Prakash and V.K.Krishnamurthy, is earnestly appreciated.

My sincere thanks are due to Mr.D.Thirunavukarasu and Mr.K.G.Murugavel M.Sc Students for their help. Mrs.Kownhar and Mrs.C.Geetha deserve special thanks for their technical help.

The financial support from Madras University, and Lady Tata Memorial Bombay in the form of fellowship is hereby acknowledged.

I thank to Miss.Visalakshi for typing the manuscript.

I am conscious of the contribution made by the patients and volunteers involved in the study and that of many others whom I would have missed inadvertently.

N. MALLIKARJUN