ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With extreme pleasure I express my heartfelt thanks to Prof. C. PANNEERSELVAM, Dept. of Medical Biochemistry, Dr. AL Mudaliar PG Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras, Taramani, Chennai for his meticulous guidance and keen interest shown towards me and my progress during the tenure of this work. Any word cannot satisfy the sense of my gratefulness towards him, who introduced me to this challenging area, taught me, corrected rudiments, encouraged me and moulded me.

I profoundly thank Prof. P. VARALAKSHMI, Head, Dept. of Medical Biochemistry, Dr. AL Mudaliar PG Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras, Taramani, Chennai for her warm support rendered.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. G. JAYARAMAN, Reader, Dept. of Genetics, Dr. C. DAMODARAN, Emeritus Professor, Center for Biotechnology, Anna University, Chennai for making me accessible to the available facilities and for their valuable suggestions and timely unstinted help towards a successful completion of my work.

I record my sincere thanks to Prof. D. Sakthisekaran, Prof. P. Sachdanandam, Dr. P. Kalaiselvi, Dept. of Medical Biochemistry, Dr. AL Mudaliar PG Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, for their valuable support.

I am very much grateful to Prof. Dinakarraj, Dept. of Animal Biotechnology, Tamil Nadu Veterinary University for allowing me to utilize the flow cytometric studies.
I wish to mention the congenial and friendly atoms shared with my seniors and lab mates who gave healthy criticisms, valuable suggestions and timely help. A note worthy mention goes to Dr. S. Shila for her timeless contributions.

Wish to make very special record of remembrance on my everlasting friends.

I take this opportunity to thank the non-teaching staff of my department Mr. Dhakshinamoorthy, Mr. Rajendiran, Mr. Anandan, Mr. karthi and Mr. Vincent for their precious help.

I would also be befitting to thank my beloved mother, brothers and sisters for their consoling demeanor.

The financial support offered by Defense Research Development Organization, Govt. of India, New Delhi and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Govt. of India, New Delhi are gratefully acknowledged.

My sincere thanks are due to my dear and near ones for the help rendered by them directly and indirectly throughout the course of my work.

(S. KUMARAN)