

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me pleasure to thank my guide Dr.K.Ramachandra Panikkar for his useful criticism and encouragement to carry out this work. The kind help extended to me by Dr.C.S.Paulose is remembered with gratitude. I express my sincere thanks to Dr.Ramadasan Kuttan for his keen interest and help rendered to do this work. I am thankful to Dr.K.T.Augusti who helped me a lot to complete this report. I am also obliged to the staff and research students of Amala Cancer Research Centre for their constant help and suggestions.

I am highly obliged to the former Director of Amala Hospital, Rev. Fr. Gabriel and the present Director Rev. Fr. G.Pius for permitting me to do my research work in the centre.

I am grateful to Rev. Fr. Paul Alapatt, former Principal of St.Thomas College, Trichur and the present Principal Rev.Fr.Dr.Antony Porathur for allowing me to do part-time research work. I am indebted to Dr.M.P.Thobias, Prof.C.Ravindranatha Menon, Prof.M.T.Joy, Prof.K.T.George and staff members of Zoology Department, St. Thomas College, Trichur for their constant encouragement and healthy suggestions during this work.

I am indebted to Dr.P.Nandakumar who helped me a lot to complete this report. I am grateful to Prof.Bose Joseph who took the pain to go through the whole manuscript and made corrections and useful suggestions.

Last but not the least, I admit that the constructive criticism and suggestions made by my wife Sisily helped me a lot. I remember my child Ammu with gratitude. I also extend my earnest thanks to my parents for their constant encouragement and blessings to complete this work.