ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all I must be grateful to the almighty GOD, for having provided me with an opportunity to pursue my doctoral degree in a premier ICMR institution. The culmination of any work is a combination of God’s grace, best wishes and support and individual’s own hard work. It is my privilege to acknowledge all those who helped me directly or indirectly during my Ph.D. programme.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. P Vijayachari, MD., Scientist “G” and Director, Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Port Blair, who has made outstanding contributions in the field of Leptospirosis and to different infectious diseases, especially with reference to those with viral aetiology, prevalent in these Islands, for suggesting the topic for my doctoral thesis. His valuable suggestions, constant monitoring and extension of all facilities at the Centre were instrumental in keeping me motivated, in accomplishing my goals of doctoral research.

The guidance, advice and help rendered in certain statistical analysis from time to time by Dr. A P Sugunan, M.B.B.S., M.A.E., Scientist “E” and Deputy Director, Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Port Blair are gratefully acknowledged.

I am thankful to Dr. A N Shriram, M.Sc., Ph.D., Scientist “B”, Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Port Blair for providing constant encouragement during the my study period and also for providing suggestions in the write up of my thesis and for having kindly read and checked the thesis.

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. M Sathya Prakash, MBBS., Scientist “C”, Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Port Blair Dr. Subarna Roy, MSc., Ph.D., Scientist “D” & Assistant Director, Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Belgaum and other scientists of the Centre for their suggestions and help during my study period.

I am indebted to the Lady Tata Memorial Trust for having provided me with the Senior Research Scholarship for undertaking this study.
I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Dr. N Pradeep Kumar, MSc., PhD., Scientist E and Deputy Director, Vector Control Research Centre (ICMR), Puducherry, Dr. A B Sudeep, MSc., PhD Scientist “B”, National Institute of Virology (ICMR), Pune and Dr. Subhodh Rai, MBBS., Primary Health Centre, Adyanadka, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka for extending their cooperation and providing valuable comments and guidance throughout my study.

I thank the Director of Health Services, Andaman & Nicobar administration and his colleagues at the G B Pant Hospital, Port Blair for extending support for carrying out my work.

Finally, I thank all the Research Scholars, field and technical staffs and staffs from the administration of the Centre, for having supported me directly or indirectly in innumerable ways during my study period at the Centre.

Last, but not the least, I am indebted to my wife and children, for having constantly stood by me, extending support and for having accepted my prolonged absence at home, during my study period.