ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Working on the Ph.D. has been a wonderful and overwhelming experience. Looking back, I am surprised and at the same time very grateful for all I have received throughout these years. It has certainly shaped me as a person, taught me how to stay focused and has led me where I am now. It would not have been possible to write this doctoral thesis without the help and support of the kind people around me, to only some of whom it is possible to give particular mention here for making the time working on my Ph.D. an unforgettable experience. It gives me great pleasure in expressing my gratitude to all those people who have supported me and had their contributions in making this thesis possible.

Foremost I want to express my profound sense of reverence to my advisor Prof. Manab Deka for his constant guidance, support, motivation and untiring help during the course of my PhD study and research. His in-depth knowledge and good advice has been invaluable and extremely beneficial for me. I am extremely grateful to him for all the hope he has put on me and giving me enough freedom during my research. He has always been nice to me. I will always remember his wholehearted and full of life nature.

I express my gratitude to Prof. P.J Handique and all teachers of Department of Biotechnology, for their insightful comments both in my work and in this thesis. Their critical remarks and suggestions have always been very helpful in improving my skills as a good listener, taught me how to organize my thoughts and phrase my points. I am indebted to Prof. M.C Kalita for his generosity and support for making available the necessary laboratory facilities to carry out my research. I am extremely grateful and thank the office staff of Department Of Biotechnology for their support and assistance since the start of my work. I sincerely thank professor Premashis Kar, Department of Medicine and members of PCR-hepatitis laboratory, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi for allowing me to carry out part of my research work there.

I express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Anjan Kumar Saikia, Chief Physician, Central Hospital, N.F Railway, Guwahati for encouragement and continuous guidance throughout the course of research. He has always been caring, a source of wisdom and motivation which I appreciate from my heart. I would like to thank the physicians, nurses especially Swapna, Phool Kumari, Hemphi and Lab technicians Gopal Chetri of Male Medical ward and female Medical Ward and all the staff members of Central Hospital, N.F Railway, Maligaon, Guwahati for their support and help while I recruited patients and collected data for my Ph.D. thesis.
Special thanks to all the research scholars from the Biomedical Science laboratory under the Department of Biotechnology, Gauhati University some of who are very close friends now, for their support and for providing a pleasant and productive working atmosphere. It was a pleasure to share doctoral studies and life with wonderful people like Bharati, Rajkumari Deblakshmi, Manashree, I would like to thank them for their support and encouragement throughout. I have been fortunate to work with wonderful MSc students, Elina, Junali, Afruza, and Diptika. I appreciate their support and encouragement as well.

I would like to express my special appreciation and thanks to Dr. Subhash Medhi from Department of Biological science, Guwahati University. You have been an invaluable support day in, day out, during all these years. I would also like to thank Md Ghaznavi Idris for the good advice and invaluable support. Your technical excellence and tremendous grasp of experimental issues had a great impact on me. I would also like to thank you for supporting me for your brilliant comments and suggestions. I offer my Sincere thanks to Shyam Sundar Swargiary and SAI Choudhury for their necessary support and motivation. I sincerely thank Pinku Rajbonshi, Tilak Da and Rambabu, for their kind help and support whenever possible.

Above all I thank my Parents for their infinite support and believe in me throughout, as always, for which my mere expression of thanks likewise does not suffice. Their excitement to hear my success inspires me to perform better. I strongly believe that their prayers played very important role in my life. This thesis would not have happened without their blessings. I would like to thank my Sister in law, Dr. Purabi Deka Bose for motivating and guiding me throughout. A special thanks to my Brother Dr. Sujoy Bose. I always fall short of words and felt impossible to describe his support in words. His ability to select and to approach compelling research problems, high scientific standards, and his hard work always set an example for me. I learned a lot from you about life, research, how to tackle new problems and how to develop techniques to solve them. This thesis would not have been possible without the help, support and patience. I want to thank you for all the hope you have put on me and always encouraging me.

I express my deepest gratitude to all the patients for their consent and samples without which this work would not have been possible. I thank wholeheartedly the patients and their family members who helped to filled out questionnaires for me.

Moumita Bose