ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my thanks to “GOD” for His grace and help in all my activities and for taking me so far in my life.

It’s a great privilege for me to be a student in the Department of Physiology, V. P. Chest Institute, which witnessed the exemplary work of Late Prof. A. S. Paintal. My greatest homage to him and may his soul rest in peace.

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. K. Ravi, Professor & Head, in the Department of Physiology, V. P. Chest Institute. His wide knowledge and his logical way of thinking have been of great value for me. His understanding, encouragement and personal guidance have provided a good basis for the present thesis. I appreciate all his contributions of time and idea to make my stay at the Institute productive and stimulating. The joy and enthusiasm he has for his research was contagious and motivational for me, even during tough times in the Ph.D. pursuit. His confidence in my work encouraged me to achieve new goals in the field of science. His fruitful suggestions will surely go a long way with me in building up my career.

I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to my Co-supervisor Dr. S.K. Chabbra, Head, Department of Cardio-Respiratory Physiology, V.P. Chest Institute for inspiring me and helping me. His ideas and concepts have had a remarkable influence on my present career in the field of respiratory physiology. His unparalleled dedication towards work always inspired me.

I wish to express my gratitude to my Co-supervisor Dr. B.D. Bannerjee, Department of Biochemistry, UCMS. His in depth knowledge in biochemistry helped me in understanding the various biochemical aspects especially oxidative stress in this field.

I owe my most sincere gratitude to our former Director, Dr. V. K. Vijayan, for providing an excellent research environment and facilities to work in the Institute. I am grateful to our present Director Dr. S.N. Gaur, for continuance of his support for my remaining tenure.

I express my gratitude to Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology, especially for her valuable advice in the histopathological investigations.

I would like to thank Dr. Vishal Bansal for his help at various times and the entire faculty of V. P. chest Institute for their valuable help and suggestions whenever required.
I warmly thank my seniors Dr. Abdul Yasir and Dr. Ruchi Bhagat for their help especially in the initial stages of my thesis work. Their extensive discussions and interesting explorations have been very helpful for my study.

No work is complete without the cooperation of my junior lab mates. Therefore, I would like to convey my special thanks to Ravi and Rishabh for their assistance and splendid co-operation.

I acknowledge the help rendered by colleagues and Friends: Dr. Tripat, Dr. Preetideep, Dr. Kanimozhi, Dr. Rajeev, Dr. Puneet, Mansi and Adnan. They were there whenever required.

Friends are part of life. My days in VPCI were made enjoyable due to the company of many friends- Pallavika, Rachna, Apoorva, Ashay, Ajeeta, Mrinal and Divya. They were of great support to me morally.

I fondly remember the time spent with friends from Zoology Department- Amit, Kapinder, Tarkeshwar, Manish, Gagan, Sandeep, Neetu, Jyotsana- I will miss you all.

I wish to extend my labmates Mr. Manish, Mr. Joginder, Mr. K.K. Singh, Mr. Deepak and Mr. Prasad for facilitating me with all the possible ways to complete my thesis work. Without their support and help, it would have been extremely difficult for me to accomplish this dream of mine.

I gratefully acknowledge the Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi, for providing me financial assistance for carrying out this investigation.

I also gratefully acknowledge the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, for providing me fellowship during this tenure of my study.

I would like to thank my family for all their love and encouragement.

Lastly, I would like to greatly acknowledge the silent sacrifice of guinea pigs that had been used during the course of my study.

Thank you

(Anirudh Vashisht)