Acknowledgements

It is my great pleasure to express humble gratitude and acknowledge contribution of some people during present Ph.D. research work, which deserves a special mention.

I express deep sense of gratitude to my research guide respected Dr. (Mrs.) Varsha Patel, M.D. Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology, N.H.L. Municipal Medical College, Ahmedabad for her constant guidance, supervision and encouragement throughout the course of this work. Without her valuable and crucial contribution, this work would not have reached its present form.

I express special thanks to Dr. Ajay P. Chauhan, M.D. Superintendent and Psychiatrist, Hospital for Mental Health, Ahmedabad for his keen interest, cooperation, valuable suggestions and encouragement throughout the work as well as for permitting me to carry out this work at the hospital.

I am also thankful to the Institutional Ethics Committee of the hospital for reviewing and approving the study protocol of this research work.

I gratefully acknowledge Dr. (Mrs.) D. M. Bhatt, M.D. and Dr. N. P. Shah, M.D. the psychiatrists of the hospital for their positive support throughout the work.

I am also indebted to the nursing and non-clinical staff of the Hospital for their constant support throughout the work.

I express my sincere gratitude to the patients and their relatives who participated in this study, without whom this work would not have been feasible.

I am also deeply thankful to my wife and children for their continuing moral support crucial in accomplishing this work.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who was vital to the realization of this thesis and express apology for not able to mention each one’s name.

- Bakulesh Surti