Acknowledgments

It is with immense sense of gratitude and deep respect that I thank my guide Prof. Ramesh K. Goyal, M. Sc. (Med), Ph. D., F.I.C., F.I.C.N., FAMS, FIPS, FIACS, Department of Pharmacology, L. M. College of Pharmacy, Ahmedabad, without whose constant perseverance, constructive criticism and unending enthusiasm this work would not have evolved in the present form. It’s because of him, that I could get the chance to see some international labs and be proud of my own work. He has always been helpful in realizing my potentials and would use every trick in the bag to get me motivated to reach this day. Thank you sir!

I wholeheartedly thank Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India, for providing an invaluable financial assistance in the form of Senior Research Fellowship which helped me to perform the work.

I am thankful to Dr. M. C. Gohel, Principal, L. M. College of Pharmacy, for providing the essential infrastructure, extending the facilities to complete this work and for his timely help and encouraging words.

A very special vote of thanks goes to Prof. Naranjan S. Dhalla, Director, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre, Winnipeg, CANADA and Prof. Mustafa F. Lokhandwala, Dean, College of Pharmacy, University of Houston, Houston, USA for giving me invaluable opportunity to perform advanced experiments at their respective sophisticated laboratories and letting me get the feel and taste of good research. I am especially indebted to Dr. Lokhandwala for his personal attention and care at the crunchiest of times during the course of this work. He is an unbelievably nice person.

I also express my sincere thanks to Dr. D. D. Santani, Professor and Head, and Mr. R. V. Bhatt, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, L. M. College of Pharmacy, for their faith shown in me. I am thankful to them for their moral support and encouragement during the entire course of my work. I am also thankful to Dr. A. A. Mehta, Dr. S. S. Goswami and Dr. P. A. Bhatt, Senior Lecturers, Department of Pharmacology, L. M. College of Pharmacy, for their good support. I thank Dr. M. T. Chhabria, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry (P.G.), Dr. B. N. Suhagia, Professor and Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, L. M. College of Pharmacy, for their support and help, as and when required.
The friendly gesture, appreciations and help extended by all staff members at Department of Pharmacology, L. M. College of Pharmacy is duly acknowledged. It was a pleasure to interact with Mrs. C. J. Shah, Laboratory Assistant, Krishnabhai, Shivabhai, who helped to maintain animal house and unforgettable Late Niruben. I sincerely thank Mehtasir, Senior Accountant and Chiragbhai for keeping me unconcerned about the accounts and helping me immensely in this regard. I am also thankful to the Library staff and the Office staff especially Prakash and Chavdabhai.

A vote of thanks also goes to Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ahmedabad and Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ahmedabad for kindly gifting drug samples required for the study. I also thank Zydus Research Centre for supplying animals whenever needed.

I will miss my duties if I forget to thank Dr. Tahir Hussain, Faculty, College of Pharmacy, University of Houston, Houston, USA and Dr. V. Elimban, Research Associate, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, Winnipeg for teaching me the advanced experimental techniques. Thanks are also due to postdoctoral fellows Dr. Satyajeet Rathi and Dr. Asghar in this regard.

Friends are the treasures that one can count on in difficult times. Friends like big brothers Vikas and Srinivas, and Sonali, Hema kept me afloat during my sinking spirits. Santosh, Murali and Sanjay did a good work in extending the help during experimentations. I am grateful to Vihang, Meghna and Michelle for providing a friendly, warm work atmosphere at Houston. I would also like to thank Diane for taking care of paper work at Houston.

I thank to all those persons who helped and encouraged me during the course of this work and whose names, I am afraid, might have been missed out here.

Words are just not enough to express the sense of gratitude and pride for Aai and Baba, for being supportive, encouraging and understanding towards me. Their words of wisdom and caution propelled me to this height. And last but the most important, I thank with whole heart to my beloved wife Rinku to keep the company through all possible sorts of troubles and lows and sharing my dreams.

Dhananjay Umrani, M. Pharm.