ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my indebtedness and gratitude to my supervisor Prof. ZH Beg, without whose guidance and able help, it would have been so very difficult to successfully complete the study undertaken. As a matter of fact, I owe the very completion of the project to Prof. Beg.

I also wish to offer thanks to Dr. SA Ali, Chairman of the Department, other members of the teaching staff and the members of administrative staff for offering and extending any which help, I required in the course of my work.

I am extremely grateful to my teachers, Prof. M Saleemuddin, Prof. SM Hadi, Prof. M Ahmad and Drs. (Ms) B Bano, (Ms) N Banu, R Mahmood, Q Hussain, J Iqbal and (Ms) I Naseem of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Life Sciences, AMU, for the academic nurturing they have provided to me. They always found time from within their busy schedules, to accommodate me and to answer all my queries and to clarify all my doubts, whenever I approached them.

I would like to especially thank Dr. S Tayyab, Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit, AMU, for his help, constructive criticism and scientific discussions, in the context of my study.

I wish to acknowledge (Late) Prof. W Nizami and his research students, Department of Zoology, AMU, for providing me the facility of Beta-counter for my radioactivity experiments. I also wish to thank Dr. RAK Rao, Department of Applied Chemistry, ZH Engineering College, AMU, for helping me to carry out HPLC during my initial experiments.
Thanks are also due to my colleagues, Shaukat, Khalid, Minhaj and Jahangir, for their discussions, scientific or otherwise, and indispensable cooperation, at times at the expense of their own work. Khalid, whose company changed the way of my life, will always be remembered. Jahangir's skillful efforts involved in the graphical presentation of data and expert help with the word processing of my thesis, also need special mention here.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge my parents who sacrificed their comfort for my convenience and also for the great amount of help and moral support that they have always provided me. They may not know, but they were a great help, by just being there. I am also thankful to my brother, Faheem and my friends, Salman, Tariq, Mubashir, Azmat, Mariya, Hemlata and Indu, for the help they have always extended my way.

I am also thankful to the non-teaching staff of the department including Rizwan, Fazlur-Rahman, Dabeer and Suhail, for their help.

Lastly, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, is gratefully acknowledged for the financial assistance during the course of research study.

(Waseem Ahmad Siddiqui)