ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research work embodied in this thesis titled "Design and characterization of solid phase extractors and their applications in the removal of toxic metal ions from microwave-assisted digested samples" was carried out under the supervision of Professor Arabinda Kumar Das, Professor of Chemistry (on leave), The University of Burdwan and Vice-Chancellor, Kalyani University. It is my pleasure to thank Professor Das for his guidance and suggestions.

I wish to acknowledge my collaborators from Radiochemistry Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai Dr. V. K. Manchanda, Dr. P. K. Mohapatra, and Mr. Arunasis Bhattacharya, who helped me to carry out some part of the laboratory work at RCD, BARC, Mumbai (India). Here I would also like to thank Dr. S. Sabharwal, and Dr. S. P. Ramnani, from Radiation Technology Development Section, BARC, Mumbai, India, for providing the chitosan derivatives and Mr. G. D. Dhekane, Thermax Limited, Chemical Division, Pune, India, for providing Tulsion CH 90. I am very much thankful to Professor M. de la Guardia and Professor M. L. Cervera, Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Valencia, Spain, for the help they rendered.

I take this opportunity to thank all the faculty members of The Department of Chemistry, The University of Burdwan for their suggestions and advice. Expressing gratitude in any form will be insufficient for the extensive co-operation from my research colleagues and senior lab mates. Special thanks are due to Dr. B. C. Mondal, Dr. M. Dutta, Dr. D. Goswami, Dr. D. Banerjee, Dr. S. K. Bera, Dr. S. Sain, Dr. S. Maji, Dr. R. Ghosh, Dr. U. S. Ray, Dr. B. G. Chand, Ms. N. Deb, Mr. A. Sarkar, Mr. S. Pal, Mr. B. Das and Mr. B. C. Ghosh.

Last but not the least, I express my sincere thanks to the authorities of The University of Burdwan for providing financial assistance and the Head of the Department of Chemistry for providing the infrastructure.

Department of Chemistry
The University of Burdwan
Burdwan -713104
W.B., India

Suparna Dutta
(Suparna Dutta)