ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Successful accomplishment of this work is a result of cumulative efforts of my esteemed teachers, colleagues, family members and friends. I take this as an opportunity to thank them all sincerely.

I have no words to express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. Ramesh M. Ray for his constant help, valuable guidance and immense patience throughout the course of the present studies.

My thanks are due to:

* Prof. Y. S. Dave, Head, Department of Biosciences, and Prof. J. A. Inamdar, Ex-Head, Department of Biosciences for providing laboratory facilities and encouragement throughout my research work.

* Dr. K. C. Patel, Dr. Datta Madamwar and other staff members of Department of Biosciences for fruitful discussions and suggestions at every stage of my work.

* Dr. H. K. Patel, Principal, Dr. S. B. Desai, Head, Department of Microbiology, and other staff members, V. P. Science College, for their help and kind support during my work.

Contd ......
Dr. Ratnam, Mr. Navin Patel, Mr. Rashesh Parikh and Dr. Natraj for their technical and allied help to complete my research endeavour.

I also thank all the students, colleagues of Department of Biosciences and my friends, especially Dr. Hemant Patel, Dr. Anami Patel, Dr. Bina Patel, Dr. Hina Patel, Dr. Himanshu Gandhi, Dr. Vikram Patel for their warm friendship and encouragement over years.

I am grateful to University Grants Commission for financial support during initial part of my research work.

Above all, I am especially grateful to my parents, wife and relatives for their continuous encouragement and blessings.

I also thank my cousin Mr. Snehal Trivedi for computerised typing and printing of this thesis.

I will remain ever grateful to one and all who have directly or indirectly contributed to this work.

Ujjval Trivedi