ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me a great pleasure to acknowledge with deep appreciation, all those who have extended their cooperation throughout the period of this research work and preparation of the thesis.

I had indeed been fortunate in being under the tutelage of Dr. O.D. Gulati, ex. Medical Director, Shree Krishna Hospital and Medical Research Centre and ex. Dean Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad. I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to him for suggesting the problem under study; for his indispensable guidance during the course of this work, and also for critically examining the manuscript. His keen perception and warm understanding provided strength whenever my pen faltered. His constant involvement in my work and critical suggestions gave me the much-needed encouragement and brought back smiles to my face in moments of difficulty. I shall always cherish the values he has endeavoured to inculcate in me.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. M.H. Panjwani, Professor and Head Department of Pharmacology, Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, for his encouragement, support, valuable suggestions and for his forthright willingness in granting me every facility for expediting this work.
I am grateful to Dr. R.C. Shah, Dean, Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, for permitting me to conduct part of this study.

I thank Lt. Col. Dr. D.B. Ray, Medical Director, Shree Krishna Hospital and Secretary Charotar Arogya Mandal Medical Research Society, Karamsad for arranging for the financial assistance during the later part of this work.

I am deeply obliged to Dr. (Mrs.) K.G. Hemavathi, Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology, Medical College, Baroda for her continuing assistance, support, encouragement and critical comments on the manuscript.

My sincere thanks are due to the staff of Biochemistry Department of Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad in particular to Dr. N. Haridas, Professor and Head; Mr. H.P. Patel, Assistant Professor and Mr. H.N. Shah, Tutor; for the biochemical estimations. Dr. B. J. Dalal, Professor and Head; Mr. Dilip Patel, Lab. Teach.; and Mr. Amit Trivedi, Lab. Asst.; Pathology Department of Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad helped with the preparation of paraffinised blocks of the tissues for microscopical examination. Dr. (Mrs) V. Handa, Sr. Professor and Head, Dr. A.N. Shah, Asst. Professor and Dr. (Mrs) G.A. Bhatnagar, Tutor; Department of Pathology, Medical College, Baroda kindly provided their expert guidance in the microscopic studies. Dr. D.C. Master Tutor, Department of Anatomy, Medical College, Baroda helped in the microphotographic work.
Several Drug Houses mentioned in the "Drugs section of Material and Methods" supplied free gifts of drugs.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. J.D. Bhatt, Department of Pharmacology, Medical College, Baroda for his cooperation and technical help in performing blood pressure experiments.

The teaching staff members of the Department of Pharmacology have earned my heartfelt thanks for their lively companionship. I would like to thank the non-teaching staff of the department i.e. Hemaben, Ghanshyambhai, Narendra, Lallbhai and Jagdish for making themself available whenever I needed them.

My parents and my wife were constant source of encouragement and emotional support. Their love has been a pillar of strength during the worst of periods.

Finally, I offer my unending gratitude to those silent, helpless, contributors - the albino rats - who bore the brunt of my experiments, and who answered with their lives the questions posed by me.