ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Carrying out a study such as this one has been no easy job and there are several people to whom I am forever indebted for supporting me throughout these tiring years.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my guide and teacher Dr. (Mrs.) S.M. Dharwadkar, Reader and Head, Department of Biochemistry, S.B.E.S. College of Science, Aurangabad. She has guided me through the many levels of difficulty covering the study and her firm stand and unending support is the reason why this study is in your hands today.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. S.V. Birajdar, Principal, S.B.E.S. College and Dr. S.C. Bhoyar, Dean, C.S.M.S.S Dental College for their consistent encouragement and their graciousness in giving permission to carry out this study.

My appreciation also goes to Dr. Shrikant Deshmukh, Administrative Officer, C.S.M.S.S Dental College, for promoting the prospect of undertaking this study.

Words cannot thank Dr. Sudhir Kulkarni, Dr. K.S. Bhople, Government Medical College, Aurangabad and Dr. Mahendrasingh Chavan, Hedgewar Hospital, for granting permission for collecting samples. Dr. Deepak Bhosle and Dr. Rajendra Chavan, for providing support for this study.
I also am immensely grateful to Dr. Swati Mahajan, M.G.M. Hospital for performing statistical analysis.

I also admire the help provided by the technical and non-technical staff for their help my study.

Last but not the least, I remain thankful to all the patients, who form the backbone and without whom this study would not have been completed.

My friends and relatives have always extended their support to me and thus, kept me going. It is only due to the grace of the Almighty that I have finished this project and it is his gift that lies in your hands today.

Mrs. Mamta Saraf