ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a matter of great delight to me to express my indebtedness to my supervisor, Dr. V. Bhalla, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for initiating me into this important research in human cytogenetics. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to him for his personal interest, encouragement and guidance at every step of the present research work.

I am deeply indebted to my joint supervisor Dr. R.C. Sobti, Reader, Department of Zoology, for granting me laboratory facilities during the course of collection of research material and for his meticulous guidance and critical appraisal of the manuscript which have been highly instrumental in bringing this to the present form. I am also grateful to:

Dr. S. Parakash, Chairman, Department of Anthropology, for providing necessary facilities to me in the department.

Dr. S.K. Mitra, Head, Department of Pediatric Surgery, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research [P.G.I.], Chandigarh, for giving permission to take blood samples.
Dr. G.K. Sharma and Dr. Brahma Nandon, Senior Residents, Department of Pediatric Surgery, [P.G.I], Chandigarh for providing blood samples for chromosomal analysis of the patients.

I will be a failing in my duties if I do not acknowledge my unrepayable indebtedness to my parents, wife and children who have been a constant source of inspiration and moral support to me all through the period of this work.

My colleagues and friends who offered me their whole hearted cooperation during the course of my research work.

Last, but not the least, I owe a special word of thanks to the patients and their caretakers, for their cooperation in the collection of samples and for providing necessary information relating to their case histories. I dedicate this work to the cause of these silent sufferers who were a mute testimony to the vagaries of nature.

Dated: January 27, 1989. Mahmood Khazab