ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to my revered teacher, Prof. H.M. Dani, Ph.D.(Punjab) Ph.D.(London). Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Chief-Coordinator, Centre of Environmental Sciences, for suggesting the research problem, judicious planning and the constant encouragement given throughout the tenure of my research work. Without his help it was difficult for me to bring this manuscript to its present shape.

I am also greatfully indebted to Dr.M.K.P. Amma, (EX-Chairperson) and Dr. R.K.Jethi (Chairman) department of biochemistry for providing me the necessary facilities to make the work possible.

My sincere indebtedness is also due to Mr. Ravi for his persistent encouragement, unselfish cooperation, fruitful discussions and timely help in the preparation of this manuscript. I am also thankful to all my friends for their help in one or the other way.

I do not have words to express my gratitude to my parents and sisters for their patience and sacrifices made during the course of my study. To them I owe more than I can say.

Financial assistance provided by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is duly acknowledged.

SNEH LATA AHUJA