ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am extremely glad to have this opportunity of expressing my sense of gratitude and indebtedness to all those who have been instrumental in the successful completion of this work.

In the first instance, it was my distinct honour and rare privilege to have worked under the guidance and supervision of our esteemed Professor Dr. S.C. Srivastava. I am very much thankful to him for his keen interest, valuable suggestions, constructive criticism and encouragement at every step of this study.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Ramash Kumar Arya, Assistant Professor of Pathology (Haematology). Experienced in research and guidance, as he is, he could realise the difficulties of a beginner and has patiently spared considerable time during the progress of this work. But for his enthusiasm and optimism this thesis would have been an impossibility.

I am very much thankful to Mr. Subhash Gupta, Biostatistician, for his kind help in the analysis and interpretation of the data.

I am grateful to many of my colleagues and friends for the assistance extended by them every now and then.

I thank Mr. Daryal Lal for his excellent typing of this thesis.

Sudershan Kumar Hooda