Acknowledgements

Research, verily, is an onerous task demanding an “optimized” blend of perspiration, persistence, piety, patience and perseverance, and at times, prayer for His Majesty’s benediction. Particularly, “playing” this strenuous “game” in the playfield at an advancing age of a “coach” was not a “simple and straight drive” to pull on. Nevertheless amid the peaks and troughs of agony and ecstasy, it has been a thoroughly gratifying experience. Words are scarce to enunciate my gratitude to people who have stimulated and rejuvenated me while treading this marathon sojourn. Ordinarily, this is done as a customary gesture of acknowledgement. However, I articulate my feelings truly from the bottom of my heart to:

Professor O.P. Katare, Professor & Chairman, University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Panjab University, for not only providing the requisite research facilities, but for his persistent supervisory impetus, amiable but tangible support, positive and conscientious attitude, and valuable advice whenever I need the same.

Prof. S.C. Chaturvedi, Head, DAVV, Indore, for vital technical suggestions and constant inspiration during the course of work.

Professor K.N. Pathak, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, for his highly assenting and heartening remarks during my encounters, which has been pivotal to impart me the requisite drive to undertake this Herculean task.

My teachers and senior colleagues, esp. (Late) Prof. K.S. Chopra, (Late) Prof. A.K. Singla, Prof. R.L. Gupta, Prof. S.K. Kalgar, Prof. R.K. Khar and Prof. T.R. Bhardwaj for providing me with tacit motivation off and on.

My academic friends, viz. Prof. Saranjit Singh, Mr. Yougesh C. Datt and Prof. Mandip Singh Sachdeva for rallying around earnestly whenever help is sought for.

Prof. Harkishan Singh, (Late) Prof. S.K. Baveja, Prof. CM Bahl (Computer Applications) and Prof. Ravi Kant (Statistics), for being excellent teachers in grooming my intellectual development in different spheres.

My adorable colleagues, Prof. V.R. Sinha, for making necessary changes in the time table, and Dr. I.P., Kaur, Dr. Shishu and esp. Dr. Sanju Dhawan for their tacit academic support and cooperative attitude.
My esteemed mother, Mrs. Satnam Kaur, for being eternal source of inspiration for me.

My venerated father, Late S. Bhagat Singh, whose cherished wish I could not accomplish during his life.

My wife, Balwinder, who maintained her utmost stint in me during my long hours on computer.

My brother-in-law, Avinderjit Singh, whom I respect and adore most, for regularly rejuvenating me “spiritually”, particularly during the busiest phase of my life.

My friends, Dr Guldeep, Dr. Singla and Amit Malhotra for helping at times in alleviating computer riddles.

“No teacher is whole of himself as his pupils are the rest of him”. I salute excellent studentship encountered to almost all of the students I have been associated with.

Raghavender,

Mrs. Naveen Ahuja Khurana for her tangible contribution in compiling the scientific manuscripts and valuable suggestions.

The team of my postgraduate scholars viz. Lalit Khurana, Vipin and Deepika for cooperating with me in the timely completion of current project.

Research grants received from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi and M/s Panacea-Biotec Ltd., New Delhi for funding the research projects on optimization of drug delivery devices.

Above all, I pray and thank ‘Almighty’ with whose beatitude I could reach this far. God bestowed me with blessing from time to time and enabled me to present this manuscript in the current form.

My brilliant kids, Jasleen and Deepman, for bearing with me in several ways.

Bhupinder Singh 10/04/2006