ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This PhD thesis has been kept on track and been seen through to completion with the support and encouragement of many people. At this moment of accomplishment I would like to pay homage to one and all with out whose valuable contribution it would not have been possible to complete the thesis successfully.

My intellectual debt is to Dr. Anil Kumar, my research guide, whose constant guidance, insightful comments and suggestions were inevitable factors for the successful completion of the work. His wisdom, knowledge and commitment to the highest standards have always been a motivation and inspiration for me. It is beyond my capacity to choose the words to express my gratitude to him.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Deepak Karkoon, the principal, and Dr. N. P. Dixit, the ex-principal, Govt.V.Y.T.PG. Autonomous college, Durg, for the generous support by providing all facilities, well equipped laboratory and department, library and other infrastructural facilities.

Words are insufficient to express my profound gratitude to my husband, Mr. K. L. Balasubramanian, the man behind all my success, who was always with me, tolerant, supportive and helpful in whatever way possible. His constructive comments and warm encouragements always boosted up my morale.
A team of dedicated, committed and cooperative research scholars were there round the clock to extend their enormous help in the form of guidance, comments, suggestions, ideas and support.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Dr. Seema Tripathi and Dr. Abha Singh without whose guidance and enormous help the project would not have materialized. I also extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Sweta Yadav for her timely help.

It is my great pleasure to acknowledge the constant support, help and cooperation that I received from Mr. Rakesh Dadsena, Mrs. Triphti Thakur and Mr. Nikhil Mishra throughout the period. Without their cooperation and help it would not have been possible for me to accomplish this endeavour. I owe a very important debt to them.

I am indebted to my colleagues, Mrs. Nisreen Hussain, Mr. S.R. Kanoje, Mrs. Madhuri Dixit, Mrs. Shubha Gupta, Mrs. K.I. Toppo and Ms. Swathi, for their constructive comments and warm encouragement.

I received generous support from Mr. Subash Tiwari in the form of technical assistance, and from Mr. Pranav Roy and Mr. Prakash, by providing reagents and fishes for the research work. I am immensely grateful to them.

I express my gratitude to Mr. Mohammad Ashruf, Deptt. of Occupational Health and Mr. K.G.Muralidharan., DGM, Bhilai Steel Plant for assisting in statistical work.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the reviewers who evaluate my thesis.
I am enormously grateful to the Principal Dr. Reny George and Vice Principal Dr. M. G. Roymon and my colleagues of St. Thomas College, Bhilai, for their cooperation and support.

I am particularly grateful for the assistance given in by Mr. Romnath and Mr. Niteesh, the laboratory attendants, throughout the course of the work.

I am deeply delighted to acknowledge the endless love and support of my parents, sisters and kids, which helped to boost up the morale. I owe a debt of gratitude to them.

Last but not the least I am greatly thankful to the Almighty for giving me strength and courage to overcome the difficulties during this endeavour and for making it a success.

Once again I express my heartfelt thanks to one and all who are directly or indirectly associated with me during the tenure of my PhD work.

Jayasree Balasubramanian