ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With great pleasure I express my sincere gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. R. Kaleysa Raj, Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Kerala for his inspiring guidance, valuable suggestions and unfailing help throughout the course of work.

I am especially grateful to Dr. Alexander Jacob, Dr. V.S. Sugurç.n, Mr. Peter Koshi and Mr. C. Mohan Kumar for their assistance connected with the project. It is indeed a pleasure to acknowledge the help received from the members of the teaching and non-teaching staff, colleagues and co-workers in the Department. Help rendered by Prof. P.A. Sheshan and Dr. M. Rajendran is highly appreciated.

Facilities provided by the University of Kerala and the award of a research fellowship by the University of Kerala and University Grants Commission, New Delhi, are also gratefully acknowledged.

J. JOHN BRIGHT