Acknowledgement

I express profound gratitude to everyone who’s cooperation and suggestions helped in completing the research successfully. This acknowledgment is not a mere formality but an expression of deep sense of thankfulness and obligation to people who provided guidance, inspiration and help during the study.

Foremost, I praise Almighty God for providing me this opportunity and granting me the capability to proceed successfully. I acknowledge with overwhelming gratitude and thanks to Shri. T. Dr. P. R. Krishnakumar, Chancellor, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for providing me the opportunity to undertake this research investigation in this esteemed University. With immense respect, indebtedness and gratitude, I place a sincere thanks to Thiru. T. S. K. Meenakshi Sundaram, M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D., Former Chancellor and Managing Trustee, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore.

I gratefully record a sincere thanks to Dr. (Tmt.) Premavathy Vijayan, M.Sc., M.Ed Dip. Spl. Ed, M.Phil, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor (i/c), Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for facilities provided and constant encouragement to complete the research study.

I place on record a sincere thanks to Dr. Sheela Ramachandran, M.Sc., P.G., Dip., Ph.D., Former Vice Chancellor, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for her immutable support throughout this study.

I extend immense thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) A. Venmathi, M.Sc., Dip. Ed., M.Phil., Ph.D., Registrar (i/c), Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for all the help rendered to carry out this research program successfully.

A heartfelt sincere thanks to Dr. (Mrs). G. P. Jayanthi, Former Controller of Examinations, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Biotechnology and
Bioinformatics, for extending all the possible help towards the completion of this study. I feel greatly indebted and thankful to Dr. (Mrs.) Vasugi Rajaa, M. Sc, M. Phil., Ph.D., Dean, Faculty of Home Science, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for her continued interest and valuable guidance in the conduct of this project.

I would like to extend thanks to Dr. (Mrs). Amirthaveni, Professor and Head, Department of Food Science and Nutrition and Dr. (Mrs). G. Vasanthamani Professor and Head, Department of Food Service Management and Dietetics, Faculty of Home Science, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore for their whole hearted support in carrying out the research.

It is the investigator’s prerogative and privilege to express the deepest sense of thanks and gratitude to the respected and enthusiastic supervisor Dr. (Mrs.) R. Radha, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Food Service Management and Dietetics, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, for her immense patience, noble counsel, cordial treatment, innovative ideas, constructive thoughts, constant support, encouragement, incessant guidance for excellence and faster care rendered during the study which molded this dissertation into its reality. I record overriding indebtedness for the valuable suggestions and inspiring guidance rendered at each stage of the work undertaken. Beyond being a supervisor she was a mentor, well-wisher and a friend. Only through her encouragement, motivation and support I had a great exposure to meet many professors, scientist, researchers and academicians both nationally and internationally by attending and presenting research papers in both national and international conferences.

I take colossal pleasure to thank Dr.R.Vijayakumar, M.D., D.M, Chief Nephrologist, Chennai Kaliyappa Renal Centre, for his motivation to take up the research and for providing me all the study materials for research work.
I am much privileged to thank Prof. Paul Moughan, Dr. Shane M Rutherford, Associate Professor and Dr. Carlos A. Montoya, Research Officer of Riddet Institute, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand for enormous guidance for the study. Even though we haven’t met, their prompt replies through e-mails have helped a lot to carry out animal study at SASTRA.

I take immense pleasure in expressing sincere thanks to Prof. S. Ramalingam, Principal, PSG Institute of Medical Science & Research, Coimbatore, whose valuable suggestions helped the investigator to carry out the research work.

I gratefully thank Prof. Ethan A Bergman, PhD, RDN, Associate Dean, College of Education and Professional Studies, Former President, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Ellensberg, Washington for giving his valuable suggestion for the research work.

I acknowledge the support of the faculty staff members from Department of Food Science and Nutrition and Department of Food Service Management and Dietetics.

I would like to express deep and sincere gratitude to Doctoral Committee expert Dr. N. R. Premalatha, Professor (Retd), Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Madurai campus. Her valuable suggestions have been of great value to complete the study.

I take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the University Grants Commission (UGC), Government of India, New Delhi for providing financial assistance in the form of Junior Research Fellowship (UGC NET-JRF) which strengthened me to perform my work comfortably.

I would like to acknowledge SASTRA University, Central Animal Facility, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India, for providing the facilities to carry out the entire research work.
I would like to express sincere thanks to Prof. S. Panchapkesan, M.V.Sc., Ph.D, Co-ordinator, for granting permission to carry out the project work at Central Animal Facility, SASTRA University, Thanjavur. I would like to thank Dr. C David Raj, PhD, Assistant Professor, for his excellent guidance and support to carry out the study. I am very obliged to Dr. Prabhu, Ph.D, Assistant Professor (Pathologist), of SASTRA University, Central Animal Facility, Thirumalaisamudram, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, for the guidance in the research work.

I am obliged to thank Mrs. Renuka and Dr. Sivakumar, Textile Chemistry Division, The South India Textile Research Association, Civil Aerodrome Post, Coimbatore for helping in analysis. I also thank Dr. Madhurarekha, Head Proteomics and CDFD Group, Sandor Life Science Pvt Ltd, CDFD Instrumentation Facility, Nampally, Hyderabad, for helping in evaluation. I would like to thank SGS Analysis, Chennai, Tamilnadu for helping in estimation of nutrients according to the standard procedures. I offer my sincere thanks to Dr. T.V. Ranganathan, Professor and Head, Department of Food Processing and Engineering, Karunya University, Coimbatore for helping in lab analysis.

I will be ungrateful if I failed to thank Dr.L.Sivakumar, Chief operating officer, SKM Siddha and Ayurvedha company (India) Limited and Mr. V.V. Krishna, Chief Technical officer, SKM Egg Products Exports (India) Limited, Chennimalai Road, Erode, Tamilnadu for providing the raw material (egg white powder) throughout my study.

I am also extremely indebted to Mr. Jijesh, Manager and Mr. Arumugam KR Bakes, Coimbatore for providing all the facilities to standardize and bake cookies for research work.

My very special and heartfelt thanks to my dearest soulmate and my fellow research scholar Ms. Gracedalyne Rose Shylla Passah for her full support to finish thesis work during illness. Without her this work would not have completed. Her motivation and encouragement has helped a lot during my time of crisis.
I express heartfelt thanks to all the dearest friends and co-research scholars, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women for their various help given to carry out the research work.

I will be ungrateful if I didn’t thank Ms. Jenita Lusia Mary, Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, and her parents Mr. John Benedict and Mrs. J. Sahayamary for providing accommodation at their home during my study period at Thanjavur.

I am highly thankful to Mr. K. Selvakumar, Euro Informatics, for his efficient job and timely help in printing the thesis.

On a personal note, I thank my father Mr. K Kalamuthu and my mother Mrs. K Kaveri for their steadfast support, inspiration and guidance for the successful completion of my studies. I bow my head to feet’s of my grandparents and no words, which can express my gratitude towards my affectionate sister Mrs. K Kaladevi for encouragement, help, prayers, blessings, moral and physical assistance and tireless support which has been the source of my strength.

I thank all study animals for sacrificing their life for the research work.

I am grateful to each and everyone who have given the investigator a constant support. I might have missed out a few names but they are always in my heart.