ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my heart felt gratitude to Prof. R. Selvam, M.Sc., Ph.D., Department of Medical Biochemistry, Dr. A.L. Mudaliar Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences (ALMPGIBMS), University of Madras, Taramani, for his excellent guidance, constant encouragement and invaluable suggestions throughout the period of work.

I am also deeply indebted to Prof. (Mrs.) K. Radha Shanmugasundaram, M.Sc., Ph.D., M.Sc. (Sheff.), A.R.I.C. (London), A.C.S. (London), Head, Department of Biochemistry, Dr. ALPGIBMS, University of Madras, Taramani for her keen interest and constant encouragement.

My sincere thanks to Mr. V. Shanmugham, Registrar, IIT, Madras for his timely help. It is also my pleasure to record my gratitude to Dr. C. Vijayalakshm, Asst. Professor of Pathology, MMC, Madras and Prof. Ramesh Rao, Head, Department of Pathology, Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Madras who have helped in the preparation of the histopathology slides and photographs.

My gratitude becomes wholesome only on mention of Mr. M. K. Subramaniam, whose continued moral support during the most trying periods has made this work possible.

Finally, and by no means least, I am most grateful to the staff, colleagues and my friends of ALPGIBMS, Taramani for their support during the preparation of this work.

The financial assistance provided by R.D. Birla Samrak Kosh, Bombay is greatly acknowledged.

MADRAS
NOVEMBER, 1993

LALITHA SUBRAMANIAN