Acknowledgements

It is my proud privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my revered teacher Dr. JASWANT SINGH, Ph.D., Scientist, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu-Tawi, for his inspiring guidance, constant encouragement, invaluable critical suggestions and continued interest throughout without which the present work would not have been possible. "Research is the hardest and finest game" and to excel in it, I consider myself fortunate for having upon me his blessings and guidance. His unsatisfied urge to keep up with the pace of creative scientific research constantly inspired me to acquire additional constellation of talents for excellence. His depth of knowledge in the subject, outstanding skill in planning the work and ability to impart knowledge through his friendly and informal attitude was indeed a great asset to me.

I wish to express my indebtedness and sincere thanks to Dr. C.R. Krishna Murthi, Ph.D., F.N.A., F.A.Sc., former Director, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow for his valuable suggestions and who has been very generous in extending all the laboratory facilities. I remain beholden to Dr. C.K. Atal, Ph.D., Director, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu-Tawi, for having been equally generous to me in extending all possible help and necessary facilities for some of the present investigations. His vast knowledge in the subject and valuable suggestions were of immense help to me. My thanks are also due to Drs. P.N.
Viswanathan, M.U.Beg and A.M.Kidwai, Scientists, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow and Shri B.P.Saxena, Scientist, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu-Tawi, for their invaluable help during this period of work.

A few tasks are more enjoyable than acknowledging our gratitude to all those who have helped in this effort in so many ways. Foremost amongst these are Shri T.K.Dullu who not only typed and retyped much of the manuscript but also edited the manuscript, my artist colleague Shri R.K.Wali for his unfailing cooperation in drawing the figures and charts and Mr. Shanti Sarup for photography. I also wish to record my sincere appreciation to my laboratory members, in particular, Shri Dev Raj, Mr. P.S.Raju, Mr. Kuldeep Singh and Mr. Jagdish Chander for their unfailing cooperation.

The author is thankful to the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi for the award of a Junior Research Fellowship followed by a Senior one and to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi for a Senior Research Fellowship during the tenure of which the present investigations were conducted.

Lastly, I have no suitable words to express adequately my feelings of sincere gratitude to my everdear and respected parents for their sustenance, inspiration and continued encouragement in the fulfilment of this cherished goal.

(RAGHVENDRA KRISHNA DUBEY)