ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With utmost pleasure and privilege I wish to record my profound gratitude to my mentors Dr. S.K. Roy, Ex-Emeritus Medical Scientist, Division of Endocrinology and Dr. Suprabhat Ray, Assistant Director, Medicinal Chemistry Division, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow for their able guidance, keen interest, valuable suggestions and constant encouragement during the course of these studies.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Dr. V.P. Kamboj, Deputy Director and Head, Division of Endocrinology and Prof. B.N. Dhawan, Director, C.D.R.I., Lucknow, for providing excellent library and laboratory facilities.

I owe a great deal to Dr. B. Malaviya and Dr. S. Ratna whose abundant moral support and co-operation helped a lot in completion of my studies.

I deem it my duty to thank Drs. Kusum M. Shukla, J.S. Gupta, Gopal, Atul, Shailendra, Yogesh & Vikas for their suggestions and invaluable help at every stage of my work. My sincere thanks are also due to my all colleagues particularly Vijai, Anupam, Rajiv, Arvinder, Vandana and Amita for rendering all possible help and cheerful companionship. I am also thankful to Messrs S.B. Dey, Duleep, M.L. Yadav, P.K. Das Gupta, J.P. Maikuri,
V. Ahmad and Pankaj for their untiring support and utmost help during the course of this work.

I also wish to thank Messrs D. Lal, L. Shukla and Pradeep for their laboratory assistance. Thanks are also due to Mr. Mandal of Statistics Division, C.D.R.I., for their sincere help in statistical analysis.

I extend my thanks to Mrs. Ratna Kanal for excellent typing of the thesis.

Financial support in the form of Research Fellowship by the Indian Council of Medical Research is also gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, I want to express my deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to my father (Shri S.C. Mishra), brothers (Pradeep & Sudhir), sister (Shatakshi), sisters-in-law (Alka & Chitra), brother-in-law (Atul) and my fiancee (Kiran) for their love, affection, encouragement and moral support, without which, the present study would have been a distant dream. I should not ignore the sweet and active love extended to me by my nephew (Hemabh) and nieces (Swati & Isha).

NEERAD C. MISHRA