ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with deep gratitude and humble spirit at the outset that I wish to express my sincerest and hearty thanks to my respected Teacher and Guide, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Director, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, for his invaluable guidance, constant inspiration, unrelenting endeavours and encouragement which enabled me to give this Thesis its present shape.

I am obliged and thankful to Dr.K.H. Shah, Dean, Government Dental College and Hospital, Ahmedabad for constant encouragement and extending facilities in carrying out of this study.

Right from the conceptual visualisation up to the crystallisation of this Thesis, the unflinching moral and technical support rendered by Dr.B.S. Jathal, Professor and Head of the Department of Periodontia, Government Dental College and Hospital, Ahmedabad cannot be overlooked. I take this opportunity to express my hearty thanks to him.

I am grateful to Dr.S.K. Nigam, Deputy Director (SG), National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad for kindly providing me the necessary laboratory and other related facilities to carry out this work.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr.A.B. Karnik and Dr.B.C. Lakkad, Assistant Directors, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad for their valuable suggestions and creative ideas.

My expression of thanks will be incomplete if I fail to mention the statistical support extended to me by Mr.K. Venkaiah, Senior Research Officer, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad.

My special thanks are also due to Mr. Pankaj Doctor, Research Officer, Mr. A.M. Suthar, Technical Officer, Mr. R.M. Patel, Research Assistant, Mr. Urjit Desai and Mr. Sitaram Yadav, Technical Assistant, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad for technical assistance.

contd......2
I am also indebted to Mr. P. A. Thomas and Mrs. Bharati Santose of the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad for the neat presentation and typing of this Thesis.

Last, but not the least, my profound gratitude to my wife, Dr. Hina M. Shah for being so tolerant and understanding, as well as to my family members, without whose blessings all this would not have materialised.

Dr. Mihir N. Shah