ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere and deep sense of gratitude and profound indebtedness to Dr. Harmeet Sidhu, Lecturer, Department of Biochemistry, Panjab University, Chandigarh, whose able guidance, constant encouragement and loving watch over my work enabled me to complete this project.

I am extremely grateful to my Co-guide Dr. (Mrs.) S.K. Thind, Emeritus Medical Scientist, Department of Biochemistry, PGIMER, Chandigarh for her keen interest, benevolent attention and untiring help in persuit of this study.

I am beholden to Dr. R. Nath, Emeritus Medical Scientist, Department of Experimental Medicine whose adroit guidance, constructive criticism, and pliant suggestions formed an invaluable part of these investigations.

Sincere thanks are due to Dr. Rajeshwar Sharma, Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, Panjab University for his kind cooperation and help whenever required.

My deepest gratefulness and candid thanks to Ms. Shalini Gulati for an encouraging and ever-ready help. I am deeply obliged to B.K. Sukarma for a long, taciturn but cheery assistance. Special thanks to Mr. Surinder and Mr. Chiranjeev, UNIVAC computers, for bringing this work in the present shape.

Last but not the least, reverential obeisance to my parents and an affectionate bow to my family members, whose patience, good wishes and moral support enabled me to keep going.

(D. Sangeeta)