ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With deep sense of gratitude and privilege I express my sincere thanks to Dr. J. K. Mukkadan, my guide and mentor for his invaluable guidance, constant and continued encouragement and support in completion of the thesis.

I am also grateful to Dr. P. K. Joseph, Professor of Biochemistry, for his able guidance, encouragement and support in successful completion of the research work. I am very much indebted to him for making my language comprehensive and for his help in proof reading during manuscript preparation for publications.

I thank the Directors and other management staffs of Little Flower Hospital and Research Centre, Angamaly, for providing all the research and institutional facilities.

I express my sincere thanks to the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, for providing me the financial help in the form of Research Fellowship at the earlier stages of this work.

I am grateful to Dr. Sheeba Varghese, Assistant Professor of Physiology, for her constructive criticism and help in proof reading of my manuscripts. Also I must give my special thanks to Dr. Priya Baby, for her careful and time consuming help at various stages in the preparation of the thesis.

With pleasure I would like to express my thanks to Nithi, Vidiya, Shalu, Nadiya, Salha, Rose, and other students of the department for their help and pleasurable company throughout.

My special thanks to Mrs. Manjima and Mrs. Sreelatha, for diligently deciphering my hand written progress reports, letters and their help in various administrative matters. Also my sincere thanks to Mr. Poly and Mrs. Thressiamma, for their help rendered in general maintenance of the animals during the work.

With lots of love and affection I owe my sincere thanks to Grand Parents, Parents, and my sister for their constant support and encouragement rendered to me at every stage of the study. A special word of thanks to Sini for her immense love and affection, constant encouragement and moral support without which this work would not have been successfully completed.

Many friends have helped directly or indirectly in varying degrees, to list them all would result either in unmanageable directory or unfair omissions, but I am thankful to all of them.

I fail in my duty if I don’t acknowledge the experimental rats for their selfless sacrifice of their life without which this work would not have been existed.

Praveen K.V.