MY GRATITUDE.....

It always has been a difficult task for me to pen down my feelings, however, in humbly attempting to do so, I take this opportunity to record my veneration and deep sense of gratitude to my teacher Dr.S.G.Adhvaryu, Head, Department of Cancer Biology, Gujarat Cancer Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for kindling my interest in this exciting field of research, for his ever inspiring guidance, valuable suggestions, constructive criticism and constant encouragement throughout the course of this study.

I shall ever remain indebted to Dr.T.B.Patel, Director, Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for granting the permission and extending Institutional facilities required for this research work.

Dr.P.K.Dayal, Government Dental College and Hospital, Ahmedabad, as well as all the staff members of the Department of Surgery, Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, deserve my thanks for the help they have rendered in the clinical diagnosis of the patients included in the thesis.

The substantial contribution of my research companion Mr.A.H.Trivedi and my dear colleagues merits a special mention. It was their unfailing co-operation and enduring stimulus that lended me a hand in executing and fulfilling this task without much ado.

....(ii)

Gratefully do I acknowledge The National Facility for Animal Tissue and Cell Culture, Pune, for providing the cell line for my research work.

My sincere thanks are due to Mr. Thomas P. Abraham for his tireless and painstaking efforts in neatly typing the thesis.

Had it not been for the generous co-operation of all the subjects who willingly participated in the study, I would hardly have been able to accomplish this work. Many thanks to all of them. An endless number of people are worthy of encomium and owe my sincere thanks but, since limitation of space constrains me to mention only some, I express my heartfelt gratitude collectively to all who have helped me in this endeavour.

With utmost reverence I regard here the enthusiasm and moral strength of my beloved parents which formed the roots of this entire effort. To them I only can bow down, feeling certain that I shall be conferred with much more --- THEIR BLESSINGS