

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*I take this auspicious opportunity to express my hearty gratitude towards my revered teacher and postgraduate guide **DR. (PROF.) K. J. PATHAK, M. D., PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND DEAN, Medical College, Baroda**, who has been a source of constant positive energy, zeal, driving force, inspiration, enlightening ideas and encouragement to me during my study. He has provided his vision, experience and helpful constructive criticism to the subject and has shown full faith in me. He has instilled in me the wisdom and correct scientific attitude towards the subject. Apart from the academic skills, he has showered me with his wisdom of dealing with patients and human beings at large, which, I believe, is very important for being a good clinician and a very good human being.*

*I would also like to express my heartiest regards to **DR. S. K. AMIN M.D., HON. ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Department of Medicine** for her invaluable suggestions regarding the study and for being a wonderful teacher and person whom I would respect for the whole of my life.*

*I also express my heartiest gratitude to **DR. N. C. MEHTA, M.D., PROFESSOR AND HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AND FACULTY DEAN, Medical College, Baroda**, for her positive support for the study and for providing books and other infra-structure for my study.*

*I would also like to thank from the core of my heart **DR. SURESH AMIN, M. D. PATHOLOGY** for the constant support and guidance throughout the study and for allowing me to use his infra-structure, without which, the project would not have been imagined.*

*I am also greatly indebted to **DR. KAMLESH J. UPADHYAY, M.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, DR. NILIMA K. SHAH, M.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, DR. SONAL V. PATEL, M.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE**, for their valuable guidance, personal assistance and continuous support in ward academics and in carrying out this study.*

*I am thankful to **DR. S. B. SAXENA, SUPERINTENDENT, S. S. G. Hospital, Baroda**, for his kind permission for the use of hospital facilities and medical records to carry out this study.*

I also wish to thank all nursing and paramedical staff who has constantly helped me throughout this endeavor. It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the unfailing cooperation I have received from my colleagues and juniors in every aspect of this work.

I also wish my heartiest gratitude and thankfulness to my parents and family who have always been a constant source of motivation and support throughout the whole journey. And I thank God for being there always.

Last but of course not the least, my deepest gratitude goes to all the patients who formed the backbone of the study.

DR. SHILPAN S. SHAH