## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

On the completion of this thesis, I take this opportunity to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude and indebtment to my reverend teacher and guide Dr. S. Ghosh, M. D., Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Medical College and Shri Sayaji General Hospital, Baroda, my Ph. D. guide, for his kind supervision, inspiring criticism and constant encouragement during the course of this study. I am privileged to have had such a precious opportunity to work under his guidance.

I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to Dean of the Institution, for permitting me to carry out the project and to avail all the facilities.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Taraben Vinayak Joshi, Ph. D., Ex-Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Medical College, Baroda for the valuable help and constant encouragement in carrying out this present work.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. Ritaben M. Shah, M. D., Ph. D., Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Medical College, Baroda, for her everlasting help, which motivated this work and kept in place with my efforts in this study.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. Anjana Desai, Professor of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University of Baroda, for allowing me to use their laboratory facilities in carrying out my bacterial study. She was kind enough to ask Dr. Dharmendra,

her Ph.D. student to help me with my work and I am also thankful

to Mrs. Aparna Sirsat for providing the technical help.

I would also like to thank Dr. Ingle, Lecturer in Microbiology, for

his invaluable guidance in my study.

I am thankful to Dr. Seema Nigam, Tutor in Community Medicine,

Medical College, Baroda for helping me in the statistical analysis.

My words cannot express my deep felt gratitude for my Mother

(Dr. Taraben Thyagarajan) who was always the constant source of

inspiration at the critical juncture. Her profile of persuasiveness,

punctuality and insistence on reality have always been and

always shall continue to be a guiding light in the darkness of my

ignorance.

Last but not the least, my thanks to all the patients of my present

study for their cooperation.

Date: 23/7/2002

Anita Thyagarajan