## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work of mine asserts that 'interdependence has a higher value than independence'. I am grateful for the inspiration and wisdom of many minds for making this synergistic product.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude to,

- Prof. Surekha Devi, a great teacher, my guide and mentor, with her immense subject knowledge, good understanding, her enthusiasm to take up any task and for helping me to have a good grounding and set me in pursuit of the elusive goal. She has always set high standards of rigor in investigating the meaningful problems.
- Prof. A.C. Shah, Head Department of Chemistry, for extending the available infrastructural facilities and prompt help.
- Prof. P.K, Bhattacharya and Prof. A.K, Rakshit for the moral support and kind cooperation, which helped to keep me on the straight and narrow topic.
- Dr. Thomas Chandy, Sr. Scientist, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology (SCTIMS & T), Trivandrum for his valuable suggestions regarding work and some productive discussions.
- Dr. R. Nair, Sr. Scientist, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Cochin for providing the Chitosan material for my study and giving morale boost to my otherwise passive activities.
- Mr. Dholakia, MD Baroda Dairy and his team for the timely help extended by contributing milk and milk products for my study.
- Dr. Roy Mathew, IISc. Bangalore for inculcating the idea into my mind to work in this area.
- Dr. A.V. Vaidyan, again a great teacher, for all kinds of help, inspiration and the discussions, that have contributed to my understanding of the practical aspects of the study.
- ▶ Thanks are also due to Dr. Roychan Joseph, friends Ninan George, Beena Shah, Dr. Sachin Sathe, Dr. Thomas, Prasad, Ajith, Dr. Ajith, Sureshan, Isha Desai and Dr. Suresh, who have always been inspiring and encouraging me.
- ▶ Timely help rendered by the colleages and the non teaching staff is gratefully acknowledged.
- DST and DSA for financial support through Research Projects.
- Family members for helping me built the confidence in accomplishment of the work.

(Reji Kumar S.)