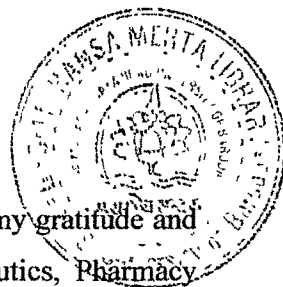


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



It is with great pleasure and profound sense of reverence that I express my gratitude and thanks to my esteemed guide Prof. RSR Murthy, Professor in pharmaceuticals, Pharmacy department, M.S.University of Baroda for his valuable guidance, suggestions and encouragement during the course of study. Often he extended himself beyond the average guide's role in helping me complete this project.

I would like to thank Prof. S. H. Mishra, Ex-head, Pharmacy department, M.S.University of Baroda and Prof. A.N.Mishra, Head, Pharmacy department, M.S.University of Baroda for providing the necessary facilities for the research work.

I am grateful to Dr (Mrs.) Krutika Sawant, Prof. M.R.Yadav, Dr (Mrs.) R.C.Mashru and all other staff members for their timely guidance and co-operation.

I am extremely thankful to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New-Delhi for providing financial support for the study.

I owe a special word of thanks to Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Scientist F, Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied sciences for his encouragement and motivation during my training at INMAS. I am thankful to Maj. Gen. T. Ravindranath, AVSM, VSM, Director, Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, Delhi for providing necessary facilities to carry out the radiolabelling experiments. I am very grateful to Dr. Anil Mishra, Mrs. Krishna Chuttani and all the members of INMAS for helping me throughout my in-vivo studies.

I thank prof M.N Patel, Metallurgy department, M.S.University of Baroda for performing the scanning electron microscopy of my samples.

I thank Dr.Pasle, Baroda Clinical laboratories for performing the histopathology studies and sparing his valuable time for evaluating the results.

I am grateful to Dr. Goswami and Mr. Rudraswami, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad for gold coating of my samples.

I am thankful to Sun Pharmaceutical Advanced Research Centre (SPARC), Baroda for giving me the gift sample of celecoxib. I am thankful to Torrent Research Centre, Ahmedabad for giving me the gift sample of rofecoxib. I thank the central institute of fisheries Technology, Cochin and Sterling gelatin limited, Vadodara, for providing the gift samples of chitosan and gelatin respectively.

My friends and co-workers Arul, Subramanian, Harivardhan, Vijay Ahire, Ganesh, Ali, Pallavi, Anand and Parmeshwari deserve my special thanks for their timely help and valuable suggestions.

I thank the Almighty God for showing me the correct path and giving me moral strength whenever I needed it the most.

This account would be incomplete without the mention of my beloved family members. I am very thankful to my husband, Paresh and my daughters, Aayushee and Anjali for their inspiration and encouragement to complete the work successfully. I owe much to their initiative and enthusiasm without which I could not have ventured into this field of study.

Hetal Thakkar