ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With a deep sense of gratitude, I wish to thank my guide, Dr. R.S.R. Murthy, Prof. of Pharmaceutics and Head Pharmacy department, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, M.S.University of Baroda, for his guidance, positive criticism, support and immense patience throughout this work.

I thank CSIR for awarding me with a fellowship, without which, I would not have had the opportunity to do this work.

I am grateful to the entire staff of the Pharmacy department, for their co-operation and support during this work. Special thanks are due to Mr. S.P. Rathod, for rescuing me from all sorts of sticky situations and giving me an insight into the aesthetics of printed matter. Thanks are also due to Dr. R. Balaraman and Dr. A.N. Misra for putting up with my unending arguments and digs.

For the photomicrographs, I am thankful for the kind co-operation extended by Dr. Anup Nair, Dr. K.S.Rao and Mrs Sangeeta Patel, Faculty of Science, MSU, Baroda.

I owe a debt to the volunteers who participated in the skin blanching study and made themselves available at all odd hours.

Sincere thanks to Dr. Y.S.Marfatia, Head, Skin and VD department, Shri Sayaji General Hospital, Baroda and Dr. Anilkumar Gaikwad, incharge, skin VD and Leprosy section,

Department of Medicine, Government Medical College, Aurangabad, who willingly performed the clinical trials inspite of their busy OPD schedules. I would also like to thank Dr. Pragnya Solanki for painstakingly screening the patients and filling in the data sheets. Thanks are due to Dr. Sudhir Kulkarni for following up the Aurangabad trials.

I throughly enjoyed myself during the three years it took me to complete this work. The onus for this, lies on the shoulders, of my collegues and juniors in the department. Special thanks to Miss Archana Patel for being a perfect back-up system and Mr.Ashwin Rao for his unquestioning support.

I will be eternally grateful to my parents for their full support, emotional and financial, in educating me.

Special thanks to Amma for her kind blessings. I also thank

Dada, Sumathi and Bhushan for helping me out during this work.

Gita Rao