

## **Acknowledgements**

### **During my years of study, I would like to thank**

Aum Nama Shiva, The Supreme Almighty, who has given me the strength to complete this course.

My parents, Savanthalai and the late Devindran Pillay, for their enduring love, care, and continuous support and encouragement. Without you both, this would have not been possible.

My sister, Kantha, who made sure that I had the necessary to accomplish this momentous milestone.

My brothers, Ugan and Rajen, and their families, who served as pillars of strength for me.

Shaveer, my best friend, who was there when I needed someone to talk to and confide in.

Sanvir, Bruce, Ravi, Kanwal, Vinesh, Vilash, Hitesh, Santhosh, Arlene, Morrnick, Stuart and Keith. For your friendship, smiles and camaraderie that has meant more than you will ever know.

Auntie Shoba, Terrance, Mervin, Mayesh, Shaun and Suran. Your encouragement and everlasting support helped me achieve this dream.

My darling wife, Mandy, who means the world to me. Who changed my life when we met! Made me be a person strong enough to challenge Achilles, and wise enough to outwit Einstein. Who transformed my inner core to something that I

didn't believe I had in me. You have made me whole. And for all that, I will say thank you forever, and a day!

**I would like to thank the following for all their assistance**

Dr Shaik, Dr Docrat, Professor Vawda, Mrs Ireland and Ms Kershnee Pillay. Without you, this course would have been a nightmare.

Dr Charmaine Korporaal. This thank you is understated, and you will never know how much you have moulded my character.

Mrs T Esterhuizen. Thank you for your input regarding statistical analysis.

The patients and friends from Petronet (Lenny, Edwin, Arnold, Leslie, Anand, Thanas, Shirley, Kerushni, Saret, Delarise and Prabashni) and VAC (Shireena and family, Judy, Ashina and family, Smiley and Queenie) for your encouragement and support.

Auntie Selvie and family and Uncle Logan and family. Thank you for all your help.

The Govender family, my in-laws, for their support and encouragement.

Those unnamed family and friends, I say thank you with all my heart and soul. You have made a difference in my life.

All my patients that made me more empathetic and all the practitioners that have granted of their time to assist me in this research endeavor and given me encouragement to excel in this profession.

**CARPE DEUM**