## Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the following individuals, who by their assistance and advice enabled the completion of this thesis:

The **patients** who participated as subjects and their families for providing consent for involvement; without them this study would not have been possible.

Associate Professor Sue Jenkins, School of Physiotherapy, Curtin University of Technology, the principal supervisor, who provided tireless direction and understanding, demonstrated tolerance and serenity, and fostered me to always strive to improve the quality of my endeavours. A hard but fair task master who deserves much credit for her supervisory efforts and the wisdom she imparts! I am humbled and indebted for all her guidance and support.

**Dr Kathy Stiller**, Senior Physiotherapist, Royal Adelaide Hospital, associate supervisor, whose deliberate and discerning advice, timely words of encouragement and guidance, and wealth of experience provided much appreciated direction and focus. Her attention to detail and clarity, with an appreciation of the bigger picture, have assisted me greatly over the years. She sets high standards, and for that I am very thankful.

**Dr Marie Blackmore** and **Dr Ritu Gupta** of the Curtin University of Technology for their statistical advice, and participation on the independent data monitoring board.

**Dr Elizabeth Geelhoed**, Health Economist from the Health Department of Western Australia, for her participation on the independent data monitoring board, her assistance with the economic analysis component of the study, and her general support and encouragement throughout the project.

**Mrs Beatrice Tucker**, Lecturer (Cardiopulmonary), School of Physiotherapy, Curtin University of Technology, for her participation on the independent data monitoring board, and for her assistance with thesis review.

**Medical and nursing staff** of the **Intensive Care Unit**, Royal Perth Hospital, for their cooperation and assistance during the conduct of this study.

**Mrs Hazel Cowie** of the **Intensive Care Unit**, Royal Perth Hospital, for her co-operation and assistance during this study in sourcing subject APACHE data and medical records.

**Mrs Kylie Hill**, Physiotherapist, fellow PhD candidate, and friend, for her assistance with thesis review.

The Medical Library staff at Royal Perth Hospital who obtained many of the references.

The **Physiotherapy staff** at Royal Perth Hospital who provided support, encouragement and assistance during the conduct of this study, and who contributed in providing the respiratory physiotherapy interventions forming the basis of the regimen studied.

The **Medical staff** of Royal Perth Hospital who gave permission for their patients to be used in the study.

The **Physiotherapy Research Foundation** of the **Australian Physiotherapy Association** for a 2001 seeding grant.

To my **parents** who have fostered, supported and encouraged me continuously over the years more than I could ever appreciate or hope to repay.

And finally, and perhaps most importantly, to **my wife** and **family** for their unwavering tolerance, love and support provided as I directed much of my time and energies into this project over the past five years or so. It's done! I love you; it's our time again...