

Acknowledgement

The work presented in this thesis could not have been accomplished without the help of several individuals. It is a pleasure to thank those who have helped and inspired me all through this period.

Both my supervisors, Prof. Dr. Richard Wong Chee Seng and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lo Kong Mun, have been helpful advisors throughout this project. I thank them for their guidance with patience, motivation, enthusiasm and knowledge which have helped me in both my research and writing of this thesis.

I am grateful to all my colleagues in the Chemistry Department of University of Malaya for their advice and support. I wish to express my resounding gratitude to my colleagues at Tiong Hua Secondary School for their best wishes.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who was important to the successful realization of the thesis, as well as given me assistance in one way or another.