

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Working for almost two and a half years on this research greatly implies that several people have been involved be it directly or rather indirectly contributed to this work to put this research on a wall of success. In this page, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Irene Tan Kit Ping and co-supervisors, Prof. Dr. Ong Siew Tin and Prof. Dr. Siar Chong Huat. They have guided me throughout the period of this project with relentless advice and great effort in teaching me the right way to make this research a successful one. I would like to acknowledge the Institute of Postgraduate Studies, University Malaya for giving me the financial support by granting me the fellowship scheme during the course of my research.

Special thanks to Dr. Nur Ikram Hanim Abdul Rahim for the animal surgery she had done in this research. Without her help I will never be able to do it and also for lending me a helping hand whenever I needed one. It was only for a short period of time but however was so important to make this research become a reality. I would like to thank my friends, Yuh Shan, Yasotha, Sharon, Vilas and Kok Loon for providing me the necessary information that helped me to complete this research.

I am also grateful to all those people who were indirectly related to my project; the staff of Dental Faculty – Kak Nani, Mrs. Khoo, the staff nurses whom assisted in the animal surgery, Miss Yap from microLambda and many others.

Finally, I would like to remark and remember the greatest importance for all my life played by my parents, Michael Koh and Lynnette Chan, and my sister, Doreen Koh.

