

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillah, praise to Allah S.W.T.; with Him all things are possible. I never would have made it without His grace and mercy.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my supervisor, Prof. Datuk Dr. Rohana Yusof for your constant encouragement, support and guidance in accomplishing this project throughout the years.

My special thanks to my mentor, Dr. Roger John Watson for encouraging me when I needed it and pointing out when I needed to motivate myself. Your generosity and enlightening ideas have made this project an interesting one. I respect and admire him greatly, especially for his willingness to help others.

To Christine, Alex, Hiba, Emily and all my friends in Department of Virology, St. Mary's Hospital, Imperial College London, for making my days at the lab fun and cheerful. I will always treasure the great times and cherish your friendship forever.

I wish to thank the Ministry of Higher Education and University of Malaya for awarding me the 'Skim Latihan Akademik IPTA' (SLAI) fellowship to sponsor my studies.

To the current and previous Heads of Department of Molecular Medicine, Prof. Dr. Mary Ann and Prof. Dr. Onn Hj. Hashim, I extend my sincere appreciation for your valuable advice and genuine support.

To Kak Shatrah and Kak Puteri for giving me your sisterly advice and they were really precious to me, thanks so much.

I would also like to thank to all my wonderful friends: Azahemy, Linda, Fina, Nadia, Tan, Dennis, Christina, Ammar, Wei Lian, Dr. Hussin for your great friendship, bring me laughter and joy, for sharing the sweet and bitter times together.

Above all, I am sincerely grateful to my family.

A day never passes without me being grateful to my mother, a strong woman of noble character. She will always be my inspiration. I also thank my father; my resilience and tenacity are traits that I inherited from him.

To my parents-in-law, Mama and Ba, I appreciate your kindness and your willingness to help me in anyways.

Last but not least for my loving and caring husband, Dr. Muhammad Firdaus Mat Saad, I really appreciate your understanding and love, for being a great listener and most importantly for being a shoulder to cry on.