ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The past three years of my PhD study have been the most rewarding time in my life so far. Thus, I deeply appreciate University of Malaya for giving me the opportunity to be a PhD candidate of their educational program. I would like to thank the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia which provided the sponsorship and funding for my research from the "Humanization of murine monoclonal anti-CEA antibody for *in vivo* colorectal cancer diagnosis' (02-06-10SF0003) project.

I am deeply indebted to my PhD supervisor, Prof. Dr. Cheah Swee Hung. From the very beginning, he gave me the right project for my thesis work which was tailored to my previous experience and education. I appreciate very much his flexibility and the freedom to let me design my research and arrange my time. On his tight schedule, he was always patient and thoughtful when analyzing the data with me during our discussions. For many times; he pointed me to the right direction to carry on my project. He guided me on how to present and publish my scientific findings efficiently in conferences and manuscript writing. I am particularly grateful for his patience to correct my English word to word in my manuscripts and thesis. I feel deeply blessed to have chosen Prof. Dr. Cheah Swee Hung as my PhD supervisor.

I am also profoundly grateful to Dr. Heilly Chong, who gave me the opportunity to work as a Research Scientist in Protein Science Department, Inno Biologics, Malaysia and has also helped shape me as a young scientist. I am indebted to her careful guidance and patience throughout my tenure as her apprentice and her well known 'hands off' approach which had allowed me the latitude to explore so many different areas connected to my thesis. This was a very important opportunity which broadened my academic experience and also complemented my development as a young independent scientist. In addition to learning how to be critical and constructive as a scientist, I also learned from her how to effectively share my research with others, a skill that appears now to be of the utmost importance. During this exciting and rewarding years of graduate work, life sometimes reached a low point and I will not forget the enduring encouragement and reminders from her not to take life too seriously, as is sometimes my modus. Dr. Heilly has also had an extraordinary impact on my career as a scientist and me as a person, and for this I am especially indebted.

I want to thank Prof Ruby Husain, staffs and postgraduate students of Physiology Department, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, for their support and advice over the years. The department provided a place, not only where I was free to learn, but also a place where I always felt welcome. Lit Lai Cheng is someone who became a good friend and was always willing to talk when I drop by for visit in "Room 5". Dr. Anne, I thank you for always being a cheerful person, you always made me smile even when I felt bad. I will miss my visit to "Room 5".

I had the pleasure to work with an international collaborator during my study. Without a doubt, Dr. Cristina Mateo from Centre of Molecular Immunology, Havana, Cuba and I shared not only a productive research partnership but we have been rewarded by a very close on-going friendship. Her warm hospitality during my visit to Cuba for my international oral presentation will always be cherished. I am also grateful to Dr. Haryanti Azura and staffs of Laboratory Animal Science Centre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya for their supervision and kind assistance during the *in vivo* experiments involving monkeys.

I would also like to thank the past and present staff of the Inno Biologics over the years for ideas, encouragement, and camaraderie. Thanks to Dato' Dr. Nazlee Kamal (Former CEO), Dr. Zulkeflie Zamrod (Vice President of Research and Development), Sheau Ching, Nurul Farhana, Siong, Azmi, Roslina, Rosni, Megala, Ekaterina, Haryanti, Zafirah, Aisyah, Fazzliana, Junaid, Nur Halis, and especially, Khoo Jo Lynn.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents and sister for their support over the years. Without them I would never have made it through graduate school. I do wish I could've been around more to see all of them, but they understood and often encouraged me to pursue my studies. My parents instilled in me the value to excel in anything I do and they always provide support, in any form I need.

Most of my first questions about the world were answered by my mother when I was young, so I had a good start. They trained me in science from an early age, and they insisted on hard work throughout my education. I have learned so much about science and academics during my PhD, and I have also learned a great deal about myself.

To all cancer patients and their families, for whom cancer is especially cruel, I offer my respect and prayers. My hope is that collectively, I will make some kind of contribution, large or small, to ease the direct or indirect impact that cancer has in each and every one of us. To all those who endeavor to this end, I salute u.