

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*This study is by far the most significant scientific accomplishment in my life and would be impossible without people who supported and believed in me.*

*I would like to gratefully acknowledge the enthusiastic supervision of Datin Professor Dr. Sri Nurestri Abd Malek, Professor Dr. Vikineswary Sabaratnam, and Professor Dr. Umah Rani Kuppusamy for their numerous stimulating suggestions, advice and encouragement in my research. I also sincerely thank my excellent advisor, Professor Dr. Mahmood Ameen Abdulla of Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya for his inspiration and great efforts to explain things clearly to me during the in-vivo experiments and also allowing me to use his laboratory facilities.*

*I was lucky enough to have support of friends from Functional Food Laboratory in Institute of Biological Sciences, Mycology and Plant Pathology Laboratory in Institute of Graduate Studies and Biochemistry Laboratory in Faculty of Medicine. Thanks to Dr. Hong Sok Lai, Dr. Lee Guan Serm, Dr. Sim Kae Shin, Dr. Wong Kah Hui, Dr. Chai Jen Wai, Dr. S. Chandramathi, Dr. Sujatha Ramasamy, Ms. Syarifah Nur Syed Abdul Rahman, Mr. Tan Wee Cheat, Ms Zarith Safinaz, Mdm. Chang May Hing, Mr. Wong Wei Lun, Mr. Wong Jin Yang, Ms. Wong Yuen Ting, Ms. Dahlia, Mr. Mohd Fairuz, Mr. Ng Zhi Xiang, Mr. Pouya Hassandarvish, Ms. Noriza Azaman and Ms Tanusya Murali whom have provided suggestions and advice, care and emotional supports in helping me to complete my research. I am glad to have work with them.*

*I would also like to express my gratefulness to Mr. Kwan Juan for the continuous supply of fresh *Pleurotus sajor-caju* mushroom and the staff of Animal House, University of Malaya and Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory, University Malaya Medical Centre for their relevant assistances and support.*

*Finally, I am forever indebted to my father, Mr. Kanagasapapathy Amplavanar and my mother, Late Sukina Verni Sittampalam, my sisters Ms. Gayathri Kanagasapapathy and Ms. Dashaini Kanagasapapathy, my brother-in-law Mr. Laurence Logan Lechman and other members of my family for their understanding, endless patience, encouragement and providing a loving environment for me. Without them I wouldn't have the strength and support to complete my research.*

*This study was funded by the following research grants, PS139/2008B, PS369/2009B and PS423/2010A and Fellowship Award generously provided by University of Malaya.*

*Thank you.*

*Gowri Kanagasabapathy*