

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foremost I would like express my sincere gratitude to my project and thesis supervisor, Prof. Ir. Dr. Ramesh Singh A/L Kuldip Singh for providing me this opportunity to perform and complete this research study successfully. His professionalism and dedication in the research area of ceramics have always been the inspiration for me to pursue my ambition in completing this research study. I really appreciate his patience and guidance as a mentor to be a competent researcher.

I would also like to thank my fellow researchers, Sara Lee Kit Yee, Kelvin Chew Wai Jin and Jeffrey Chin Kong Leong for their valuable time in sharing their knowledge and experience regarding ceramics processing techniques. Their constructive feedbacks and comments are highly appreciated.

I am also grateful to the technical personnel from the surface laboratory, powder metallurgy laboratory and FESEM laboratory of University of Malaya for their technical support in performing analytical experiments.

Finally, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to my beloved wife and two lovely children for their endless patience and moral support throughout this research study.

In memory of my late father