

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First I would like to thank my supervisor Prof. Desmond J. Tobin for giving me the opportunity to study for this research degree, his tremendous support and excellent guidance throughout the course.

I would also like to thank Dr. David A. Fenton for providing me with the all-important Alopecia Areata patient sera for this project.

A big thank you to Dr. Chris W. Sutton, Institute of Cancer Therapeutics, for his expert help and advice, from experiments planning to data analysis in the proteomics work.

I would also like to thank Prof. David Sharpe, Yorkshire Clinic, Bradford, for providing me with the face-lift skin for the hair follicle culture experiments.

Thank you to the past and current members of Prof. Tobin's group, and also everyone from Dr. Sutton's laboratory for all their help and support during my project.

Massive and special thanks to my mum and dad for their great love, support, encouragement and patience. Thank you for being my parents. Thank you for everything.

A big thank you to all brothers and sisters in Bradford Chinese Christian Church for their prayers and their continuous support.

Finally, I would like to thank Siti Rohana, Edmund CD Ang, Victor YP Lam, Hilda HY Kwan and other family and friends, for, from providing me with a laptop to write the thesis with to lending an ear when the going got tough.

This PhD studentship by the University of Bradford is gratefully acknowledged.

IN MEMORY OF MY MOTHER

**YUK-FUNG POON**

1949-2005