## Acknowledgments

Completing a PhD is truly a marathon event, and I would not have been able to complete this journey without the aid and support of countless people over past few years.

Most of all I would like to thank my loving, supporting, encouraging and patient husband. Without your help and support I would not complete my PhD. Thank you.

I would like to thank Prof. Duncan Graham for giving me the opportunity to work on this project and also for his support, guidance, help and enthusiasm.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr Andrew Ingram for all his help and advice in the synthetic work. A special thank you to Dr Ross Stevenson for all his help, advice and assistant in biological aspects of this work, especially for all his help in pH sensing project. Their time and effort were greatly appreciated.

I would like to express my gratitude to all past and present members of the Raman Group in the Centre for Molecular Nanometrology who were always friendly and helpful, particularly to Dr Alastair Wark for all his help and advice in finding new ways to functionalize my nanoparticles. Special thanks go to Dr David Thompson for all his support and assistance in DNA hybridisation assay and to Dr Iain Larmour for all his help in SER(R)S aspect of the work. Special thank you to Maartje Geboers for all her help during work on pH sensor.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family for all their love and encouragement, especially to my parents who have always supported me. Thank you.