

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to my advisor, Assistant Professor Dr. Seewaboon Sireeratawong for his valuable advices and guidance, timely suggestions and whole-hearted supports. His continuous interest and great generosity helped my work to be accomplished and also supported me during a course of this study.

I am very grateful to my co-advisor, Associate Professor Dr. Noppamas Soonthornchareonnon.

Sincere thank is also given to Associate Professor Dr. Nusiri Lerdvuthisophon for her kindness to be a chair of the examination committee and her useful comments.

I also thank Associate Professor Dr. Nirush Lertprasertsuke and lab staff, department of pathology, faculty of medicine, Chiang Mai University, for their friendship and helpful in my work.

I would like to thank Ms. Kanjana Joijoy, Mr. Piya Chinchow, Mr. Aekanun Pinjunta and Mr. Supasuk Ratchakrua for their friendship and helpful in my work.

I deeply thank to Dr. Pintosorn Hunskul and Ms. Umarat Srisawat for their English approval and advices of my thesis.

Finally, I am extremely grateful to my family for their love, understanding, financial support, entirely care, encouragement and mental support. The usefulness of this thesis, I dedicate to my father, my mother and all the teachers who have taught me since my childhood.

Watcharin Panunto

2009