Acknowledgements
Many people, from various institutions have contributed to the work presented in this thesis - I thank you all.

I would like to thank the people of Salubarana and Kalia, Mamuju, and the children of the elementary schools in SD Mangkura and SD Cambaya, Makassar. They have made contributions to the success of field researches which came to be the basis of this thesis.

For the study in Salubarana and Kalia, I would like to thank to Bob Wahyudin, Indahwati Nursyamsi, Isra Wahid and all the staff of Puskesmas Lara for their friendship and help in recruiting participants; to Annemarie Terhell and Jan Willem Koot, who introduced me to the clustering methods. For the study in Makassar, I would like to thank all the teachers from SD Cambaya and SD Mangkura for their assistance and kind cooperation during the fieldtrip. Special thank goes to John Maria Tuyt for his great assistance during the fieldtrip in Makassar as well as laboratory work in Leiden, and for his jokes which helped me to relax, even in the very tight schedules of lab work. I would also like to thank the medical students of Hasanuddin University (all of whom I can not mention by name) who accompanied and assisted me during the fieldtrip. Their young ideas and enthusiasm really helped the study to run smoothly.

I would like to express my thanks to the people from the Medical Faculty, Hasanuddin University: dr. Kunar Abadi and dr. Syafruddin who introduced me to academical research; to dr. Andarias Mangali, Prof. Idrus Paturusi and Prof. Irawan Jusuf who’s kind understanding and flexibility made my fieldtrips and laboratory work in Leiden possible; to Christin and Asni for their help in microscopic examination of blood and stool samples.

In the Netherlands, I thank my colleagues from the Department of Parasitology, LUMC, especially from Filaria group for their interest, discussion, ideas, and the pleasant and inspiring work environment they created. Special thanks to Dr. Erliani Sartono, who has been so good in teaching me about various aspects of field work, use of the computer data base, laboratory skills, and help in preparation of my research paper, among many other things. I appreciated it so much. To Yvonne Kruize-Hoeksma, thank you for sharing your technical skill and taking care of the supply and sending of all necessary equipment to the field. To Yvonne Fillié and Ayola Akim Adegnika, thank you for accepting as my right and left hand during the defense of my thesis.

I would like to thank my colleagues from LUMC for their continued help, in my absence from the Netherlands, during the final stages of my Ph.D. study: including Dr Franca Hartgers and Dr Jamie Leggat, who were so good in correcting this manuscript; Bart
Everts for Dutch translation of the summary; and Caroline Remmerswaal, who worked on official part of this book. Thank you so much.

I would like to thank to people from CLB Amsterdam: Dr. Ronald van Ree for giving me the opportunity to perform RAST analysis and provide allergens for the studies; Marja Albers and Jaap Akkerdaas for technical assistance and discussion. I also would like to thank to Dr. Hajo Jongepier, Maria T Hoogdalem V-Akkerma and Medeleine Platteel for their technical assistance and discussion during lung function and skin prick tests training in Beatrixoord Hospital, Groningen.

I received so much support from my friends in Holland: Dr. Etha and Pak A. Lolo, Tante Yosi, Bang Surjadi and Lies, Lina and Tom, I must say thanks for ‘bincang-bincang and undangan makannya’. I also would like to thank to Mevrow De Groot for her hospitality and the nice stories she told me when I was totally worn out. Special thanks I address to Sunarti and Christiaa Heersink who kindly gave me invaluable support. Having you there made Holland feel like my home. Terima kasih juga untuk my Indonesian friend in Leiden, rukun tetangga in Stationsplein and Hooigracht, who made my stay so colorful, especially to Yunianti Chuzaifah, for memorable moments she shared and her comforting shoulder when all become too much.

I express my highest gratitude to my parents, Muhadi Martonadi and Rahmijah Kaduppa, in triggering me that ‘life should be struggled’ and for their support and prayers in each step of my way. I love you both. I also would like to thank my mother in law Aisyah Tandung for helping me take care of my daughter and the farther of my daughter, I very much respect and I know I can never thank you enough; to my sisters and brother, Wati, Nunu, Nanna, Dini, Rahman and Rahim for being good aunties and good uncles for my Cici when I was away; especially to Wati, my older sister where I put my belief both when I was close and far.

Finally, but immensely to my husband Syafri Kamsul Arif and my daughter Fildzah Auni Pratiwi, who supported me in all I have done to realize the completion of this thesis. Thank you my hearts, this work will never finished without your patience, understanding and stimulation.