

## Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1: General introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Neurotransmitters.....	5
1.2 Nanotechnology.....	11
1.3 Gold Nanoparticles.....	14
1.4 Mesoporous silica nanoparticles.....	32
1.5 Stimuli-responsive gated materials.....	43
1.6 References.....	56
<b>Chapter 2: Objectives.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Colorimetric detection of neurotransmitters based on the aggregation of bifunctionalized gold nanoparticles.....</b>	<b>67</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	69
3.2 References.....	73
<b>Part 1:</b> Selective and sensitive colorimetric detection of the neurotransmitter serotonin based on the aggregation of bifunctionalised gold nanoparticles.....	75
<b>Part 2:</b> A Colorimetric Probe for the Selective Detection of Norepinephrine Based on a Double Molecular Recognition with Functionalized Gold Nanoparticles.....	105
<b>Part 3:</b> Colorimetric detection of normetanephrine, a pheochromocytoma biomarker, using bifunctionalised gold nanoparticles.....	143
<b>Chapter 4: Design of mesoporous nanodevices for controlled cargo release triggered by neurotransmitters.....</b>	<b>171</b>
4.1 Introduction.....	173
4.2 References.....	176
<b>Part 1:</b> Acetylcholine-responsive cargo release using acetylcholinesterase-capped nanomaterials.....	179
<b>Part 2:</b> L-Glutamate-Responsive Delivery System Based on Enzyme-Controlled Self-Immobilative Arylboronate-Gated Nanoparticles.....	215
<b>Chapter 5: Conclusions.....</b>	<b>247</b>