Summary of changes made to the thesis in response to examiners comments

1. The sentence, “However, there are several exceptions to this rule such as the prion concept, reverse transcription and the Lamarckian notion of function dictating heritable change. But these are not discussed further in this summary.” has been removed from page 1 of the thesis.

2. The following sentence has been added in the thesis on page 120 at the end of para 1: “Furthermore, as expected, when the band intensities for the three strain samples after RNase H treatment was compared, the intensities of the mutants were not intense as compared to the wild-type, and in fact was somewhat weaker than the band intensity of the wild-type strain.”

3. The following statement is included in the legend to all blue-white screening pictures in chapter 7: “The white colonies were either viable or inviable. Refer table 7.2 for relevant details.”

4. The thesis chapters are now printed on both sides of the pages to reduce the size of the document in its final form.