

CONTENTS

STATEMENT	i
CERTIFICATE	iii
Acknowledgement	v
List of Publications	vii
Conference Presentations	ix
Thesis Layout	xi
Chapter 1. Introduction	1
1.1. Nanomaterials	1
1.1.1. Organic nanomaterials	2
1.1.1.1. Fabrication methods	7
1.1.1.1.1. Reprecipitation method	7
1.1.1.1.2. Chemical reaction method	8
1.1.1.1.3. Soft template assisted preparation	9
1.1.1.1.4. Vapor deposition	10
1.1.1.2. Nucleation and nanocrystallisation mechanism in reprecipitation and inverse reprecipitation method	11
1.1.1.3. Optical properties	12
1.1.1.3.1. Absorption	12
1.1.1.3.2. Fluorescence	13
1.1.1.4. Nonlinear optical properties	14
1.1.1.5. Applications of organic nanoparticles	14
1.2. Gels	16

1.2.1. Classification of gels	16
1.2.1.1. Based on solvents	17
1.2.1.2. Based on nature of the monomer	17
1.2.1.3. Based on the type of cross-linking	18
1.2.2. Preparation of thermo-reversible gels	20
1.2.3. Mechanism of gel formation	20
1.2.4. Properties of low molecular weight (LMW) gels	22
1.2.4.1. Physicochemical properties	22
1.2.4.2. Photophysical properties	23
1.2.4.2.1. Absorption and emission in gels	24
1.2.4.2.2. Excitation wavelength dependent fluorescence	24
1.2.4.2.3. Fluorescence anisotropy – Rotational dynamics	25
1.2.4.2.4. Fluorescence quenching	26
1.2.4.2.4.1. Förster resonance energy transfer (FRET)	26
1.2.5. Applications	29
1.3. Motivation behind the thesis	30
References	35
Chapter 2. Materials, Methods and Instrumentation	49
2.1. Materials	49
2.2. Synthesis of gelators and electron donor acceptor (EDA) molecules	51
2.2.1 OPV	51
2.2.2 OG-leucine	52
2.2.3 NBD	54

2.3. Purification of conventional solvents	55
2.4. Methods	56
2.4.1. Fabrication of nano/microparticles	56
2.4.2. Preparation of gels	57
2.5. Sample Preparation	58
2.5.1. Spectral measurements	58
2.5.2. Microscopy analysis	58
2.6. Instrumentation	58
2.6.1. Time-correlated single photon counting setup	59
2.6.2. Time-resolved confocal fluorescence microscope	61
2.6.3. Femtosecond Z-scan setup	62
2.7. Measurement of fluorescence quantum yield	64
2.8. Fluorescence lifetime data analysis	65
2.9. Time-resolved anisotropy decay profiles	66
2.10. Z-scan data analysis	67
2.11. Standard error limits	68
References	69
Chapter 3. Controlled Fabrication, Characterization and Linear and Non-Linear Optical Properties of Phenazinium Dye Aggregates	71
3.1. Introduction	71
3.2. Results and discussion	74
3.2.1. Morphology characterizations of the dye aggregates	74
3.2.2. Steady state and time-resolved spectral measurements	78
3.2.2.1. Absorption spectra	78

3.2.2.2. Fluorescence spectra	79
3.2.2.3. Fluorescence quantum yield and lifetime studies	80
3.2.3. FLIM measurements	82
3.2.4. Z-scan measurements	84
3.3. Conclusions	86
References	88
Chapter 4. Cyanine Dye Induced Fluorescence Quenching of an Oligo(p-phenylene vinylene)-based Self-Assembly: Presence of Multiple Aggregates	93
4.1. Introduction	93
4.2. Results and Discussion	97
4.2.1. Steady-state and time-resolved measurements	97
4.2.2. Quenching studies	99
4.2.3. Morphology	105
4.2.3.1. Scanning electron microscopy	105
4.2.3.2. Confocal fluorescence microscopy	106
4.2.4. Quenching studies of OPV gel with OCY	109
4.3. Conclusions	112
References	113
Chapter 5. Contrasting Fluorescence Response of Two Dipolar Probe Molecules in a Leucine-based Organogel and Its Implications	117
5.1. Introduction	117
5.2. Results	121
5.2.1. Steady-state measurements	121
5.2.2. Time-resolved measurements	124

5.2.3. Gelation properties of AP and C153 doped organogels	127
5.3. Discussion	128
5.4. Conclusions	131
References	132
Chapter 6. Förster Resonance Energy Transfer in Agarose Hydrogel	137
6.1. Introduction	137
6.2. Results and Discussion	140
6.2.1 Studies in 0.075 wt% agarose gel	140
6.2.2. Studies in 0.3 wt% agarose gel	147
6.3. Conclusions	149
References	150
Chapter 7. Concluding Remarks	153
7.1. Overview	153
7.2. Future scope	157