
TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures	XIV
List of Tables	XX
Abbreviations	XXII
Abstract of the thesis	XXIV
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1.1 Polymeric membranes	2
1.1.1 Classification of polymeric membranes	2
1.1.2 History of polymeric membranes	3
1.1.3 Mixed Matrix Membranes (MMMs)	4
1.2 Polysulphones	5
1.2.1 Polysulphone (PSU)	6
1.2.2 Polyether sulphone (PES)	7
1.3 Membrane preparation methods	8
1.3.1 Precipitation by solvent evaporation	8
1.3.2 Precipitation from Vapour phase	8
1.3.3 Precipitation by controlled evaporation	9
1.3.4 Thermally Induced Phase Separation (TIPS)	10
1.3.5 Immersion Precipitation	10
1.4 Carbon nanotubes (CNT)	10
1.4.1 Single Walled Carbon Nanotubes (SWCNTs)	12
1.4.2 Multi-walled Carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs)	12
1.4.3 Methods for Carbon nanotubes synthesis	13
1.5 Mixed Matrix Membrane incorporated with CNTs literature outline	16
1.6 Surface Modification of Mixed Matrix Membranes	19
1.6.1 Blending techniques	19
1.6.2 Bulk modification	20
1.6.3 Plasma treatment	21
1.6.4 UV irradiation	21

1.6.5	Coating from gas or wet phase	22
1.6.6	Grafting	22
1.6.7	Chemical modification of membrane surface	22
1.6.8	Surface Modification via click reaction	24
1.6.9	Surface modification using trimesoyl chloride (TMC) and cyanuric chloride (CC)	25
1.6.10	Surface modification with Polyethylenimine (PEI)	26
1.7	Waste-water treatment	27
Chapter 2	Scope of research	29
2.1	Scope of work	30
2.2	Objective of the study	30
Chapter 3	Experimental route	33
3.1	Materials	34
3.2	Purification and functionalization of multiwalled carbon nanotubes	34
3.2.1	Purification of multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs)	34
3.2.2	Functionalization of multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs)	35
3.3	Preparation of polysulphone/f-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane	35
3.4	Surface Modification of polysulfone/azide-MWCNT mixed matrix membrane via click reaction	37
3.5	Surface Modification of polysulphones/amine-MWCNT mixed matrix membrane using trimesoyl chloride (TMC) and cyanuric chloride (CC)	38
3.6	Surface Modification of polysulphones/oxidized-MWCNT mixed matrix membrane using polyethylenimine (PEI)	39
3.7	Characterization	42
3.7.1	Characterization of f-MWCNTs	42
3.7.2	Characterization of unmodified and modified mixed matrix membranes	42
3.7.3	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)	42
3.7.4	Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)	42
3.7.5	X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS)	43
3.7.6	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FE-SEM)	43

3.7.7	Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM)	43
3.7.8	Small-angle neutron scattering (SANS)	43
3.7.9	Zeta potential	44
3.7.10	Contact-angle meter	45
3.8	Characterization of functionalized MWCNTs (f-MWCNTs)	46
3.8.1	FTIR	46
3.8.2	TEM	48
3.9	Surface Characterization of unmodified and modified polysulphones/azide-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane via click reaction	50
3.9.1	XPS	50
3.9.2	Zeta Potential	52
3.10	Surface Characterization of unmodified and modified polysulphones/amine-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using trimesoyl chloride (TMC) and cyanuric chloride (CC)	53
3.10.1	FTIR	53
3.10.2	XPS	55
3.10.3	Zeta Potential	59
3.11	Surface Characterization of unmodified and modified polysulphones/oxidized-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using polyethylenimine (PEI)	61
3.11.1	FTIR	61
3.11.2	XPS	63
3.11.3	Zeta Potential	67
Chapter 4	Membrane Performance	69
4.1	Permeation Studies of Modified and Unmodified Membranes	70
4.1.1	Pure water flux of unmodified and modified polysulphones/azide-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane via click reaction	70
4.1.2	Pure water flux of unmodified and modified polyether sulphone and polysulphones/amine-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using trimesoyl chloride (TMC) and cyanuric chloride (CC)	71
4.1.3	Pure water flux of unmodified and modified polyether sulphone and polysulphones/oxidized-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using polyethylenimine (PEI)	73
4.2	Antifouling Studies of Modified and Unmodified Membranes	76

4.2.1	Fouling Studies of unmodified and modified polysulphone/azide- MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane via click reaction	76
4.2.2	Fouling Studies of unmodified and modified polyether sulphone and polysulphones/amine-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using trimesoyl chloride (TMC) and cyanuric chloride (CC)	77
4.2.3	Fouling Studies of unmodified and modified polyether sulphone and polysulphone/oxidized-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using polyethylenimine (PEI)	81
4.3	Heavy Metal Rejection studies of Modified and Unmodified Membranes	85
4.3.1	Heavy Metal Rejection of unmodified and modified polysulphone/azide-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane via click reaction	85
4.3.2	Heavy Metal Rejection of unmodified and modified polyether sulphone and polysulphone/amine-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using trimesoyl chloride (TMC) and cyanuric chloride (CC)	87
4.3.3	Heavy Metal Rejection of unmodified and modified polysulphones/oxidized-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using polyethylenimine (PEI)	92
Chapter 5	Results and Discussion	95
5.1	Morphological Characterization of unmodified and modified polysulphone/azide-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane via click reaction	96
5.1.1	FE-SEM	96
5.1.2	AFM	96
5.1.3	Contact angle measurement	98
5.1.4	SANS	99
5.2	Morphological Characterization of unmodified and modified polyether sulphone and polysulphone/amine-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using trimesoyl chloride (TMC) and cyanuric chloride (CC)	101
5.2.1	FE-SEM	101
5.2.2	AFM	103
5.2.3	Contact angle measurement	107
5.2.4	SANS	109
5.3	Morphological Characterization of unmodified and modified polyether sulphone and polysulphone/oxidized-MWCNTs mixed matrix membrane using polyethylenimine (PEI)	111
5.3.1	FE-SEM	111

5.3.2	AFM	113
5.3.3	Contact angle measurement	117
5.3.4	SANS	118
Chapter 6	Summary, Conclusions & Future Prospects	121
	References	126
	List of Presentations	142
	List of Publications	143