8 Acknowledgements

8.1 Official acknowledgements

I would like to express my highest gratitude to the following people without whom this thesis would not have been possible:

Dr. Michael Way for accepting me as a PhD student in his lab and for providing me with in depth training in the art of scientific thinking, for all the cloning, all the beers and for inspiring me not to compromise on the aesthetical value of hard data. Thanks also for sending me to the FEBS course to Salzburg.

Inge Reckmann for patiently introducing me into the arts of cell culture and lab maintenance and for invaluable help concerning the two.

Professor Ferdinand Hucho for uncomplicated and generous support and for being the first examiner

Sabine Röttger for collaboration and the anti A33R, A34R and A36R antibodies

Drs Stefania Gonfloni and Guilio Superti-Furga for the wonderful collaboration on and around src.

Dr. Violaine Moreau for collaboration and the WA construct of N-WASP

Dr. Rainer Saffrich for showing me how to micro-inject

Drs Chris Sanderson and Geoff Smith for collaboration

Dr Ernst Stelzer for the confocal video microscopy

Drs Gareth Griffith and Walter Witke for support as members of my EMBL thesis committee

Claus Himburg and his team is acknowledged for excellent cooking

Thanks to Dr. Thomas Harder, Sabine Guth and Dr. Jacomine Krijnse-Locker for advise and to Jamie White for critically reading the manuscripts. Thanks also to the numerous people who supplied us with antibodies, bacterial or viral strains. Thanks to Michael, Gwen, Inge, Barbara and Markus for the comments on previous versions of this thesis. It was great help.

and finally thanks again to Barbara for motivation, millions of emails, patience and all them zoentjes

8.2 Not so official acknowledgements

Life at EMBL would have been less than half the fun if it would have not been for a great number of people, some of which were not even there.

I would not have come to EMBL if Andy would not have written a somewhat overdoing letter of recommendation. I still don't know what's in it, but man... Thanks, thanks, thanks !!! Thanks also to Werner for his letter. Thanks to the various groupleaders for interviewing me with more or less high standing enthusiasm. Thanks especially to Tommy for not making me drink the bottle of 'Urknecht'. Thanks again to Claus and his team for great cooking. Thanks to Frank for telling me about the quality of the canteen and for lending an ear or two when it got too much in the lab or in life. Thanks also to Gaia for the great hospitaliy in Italy. Hey, where are the pictures?? Thanks to Peter for the late night discussions about, well, everything. I still think it's better to work in a lab full of men than in one full of women. Thanks to Jamie for the late night philosophy singing lessons. It was a great show on April 1st !!! Thanks, thanks, thanks to Michael for all the pizzas, pastas, salats and beers, the car and all the jokes. Thanks again to Claus for the 'handgeschabte Spätzle'. Forty-two thanks to Pavel and the fellow skodamen and skodafrauen for the fun. Thanks to Stefania for the friendship. Thanks to Luca for the late night pizza-sharing. Thanks again to Jamie for the great time on the various skiing weekends. Thanks to Eva, not just for organizing all those skiing trips. Thanks to Ilaria for the delicious gnocci and for valuable advise on how to deal with italian women. Thanks to Claus, Katja, Giuseppe and Alberto for the pumpkin gnocci. Also thanks to Angelina for the rose. Michael will be jealous forever! Thanks to Sid for the hamburgers and laughs. Thanks to Marta for bringing some life to EMBL. Thanks to Laura for bringing some life to the lab. Thanks to Karen for bringing some miniskirts to the lab. Thanks again to Inge and Sabine for the cakes and the comments on our favorite radio station. Thanks to Violaine for not minding the effects of mixing an overdose of alcohol with greasy schupfnudeln at a crucial time. Thanks again to Claus for his home-made Maultaschen. Thanks also to Barbara for the musselties and kusjes. Thanks to Thomas for the wine tasting. Can't believe I missed so many. Thanks to Sean and Martina for running the cafeteria but still taking time when it was needed. Thanks to Michael B. for the introduction to politics. Thanks to Ann for sharing the job. Thanks to the members of the various committees for being profoundly amusing. Thanks to all the people who enjoyed the parties and especially to those who helped. Thanks to Ludwig for a warm word and the chance to tell the police to f... off. Thanks to Leonie. The bush recovered in the meantime. Thanks to Arndt, EL and Heinrich for sharing some biophysical thoughts. Thanks to Sally and Vinnie for the hospitality in San Francisco. Thanks to the people who joined for not seeing the solar eclipse and thanks to Derek for giving me some of his pictures (you lucky lucky bastard). Thanks to Berthold and Claudie (great pumpkin soup!). Thanks to Klas for the calcetto. Thanks to Torsten for the Zwiebelkuchen and them Barbeques. Thanks to Heidi and Rob, to Ennio, Maura, Kai and Rosanna. Thanks to Sylvia (how can I forget?). Thanks to Celia, Stavros, Michi (great Kässpätzle and Apfelstrudel, hmmm), Olaf, Stefano, Paul, Sinead, Gary and apologies to those not named especially those who gave me lifts up and down the hill when it was raining.

~

Thanks so much to the members of the 'Whales of South Africa' project, Des, Peter, Rudy and Mark for the wonderful time in South Africa. There is nothing like watching those whales breaching into the sunset from Rudy's balcony or from the rocks of Walker bay. Thanks to Erika for joining for the wild safari, for spotting the baby elefant and for the abuse, not just of the rental car. Thanks to the people at the FEBS course in Salzburg. My bald patch is still growing, Harry, haha. Very special thanks to Barbara for going through confusing times. Muchas gracias to the people from the 'Forest birds of Ecuador' project, Dusty, Andrea, Tom, Tylor and especially to Ana. Wish there were more people like you!! Thanks to Dixi for joining me along the avenue of the vulcanoes. It was great up there!!! Thanks of course to the late Bierbank Berlin. The emails really kept me going, JöSa! Thanks to Lars and KOEN for being out there. Thanks to my sister, brother and parents, especially to my mum for the 'Kartoffelschnitz and Spätzle'. Thanks to Daniela, Veronica, Maggie and Hansi and sorry for not taking more time. Thanks again to Claus for the great horseradish sauce, for the delicious deer, lamb, the salads and some outstandingly delicious dead fish. Thanks also to the Tortilla Imbiß and apologies to the bat, the deer and some frogs I run into when biking down the hill in the middle of the night.

And finally thanks to the art editors of the Journal of General Virology, Current Biology and the EMBO Journal for appreciating my photography as cover art (who wants to have a cover of Nature anyway?). Thanks also to Volker for the cover design of the EMBL 1997 yearbook. I know it's not perfect, but I like it. Thanks to Udo and Doug for help with photoprocessing and to Russ and Sarah for the press release and to the ASCB staff for the T-shirt and press book.



Figure 42+1 Facial blots of america's finest strawberry flavoured marshmellow fluff performed in the safty level X laboratory at Marktstube, Neuenheim. Arrowheads indicate blots that have been stripped and arrows point to blots overlayed with america's finest chocolate fudge brownie mix. Missing scale bar represents approximately 10 inch. Figure courtesy of Torsten Wittmann.

~