ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof Martin Paul, Dean of the Charité, for giving me the opportunity to carry out my research project as a fellow of the Graduiertenkolleg 865 of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

It gives me immense pleasure to thank my mentor and immediate supervisor, Priv.-Doz. Dr. Hans-Dieter Orzechowski, for his support, continuous guidance, meticulous suggestions and astute criticism during the practical phase and for his inexhaustible patience during the correction phase of this dissertation.

I would also like to express my thanks to Dr Frank S Zollmann who has been always played a key role in encouraging and coordinating this whole project and keeping me abreast of the scientific developments and his support during the course of this study.

I would also like to thank Dr Simone Gschwend for introducing me to the preparation of fine mesenteric vessels and subsequent functional analysis in the pressure myograph.

I also would like to express thanks to Priv.-Doz. Dr Alexander Oksche, Institute of Pharmacology, Berlin for his collaboration in conducting protein binding studies and introducing me to laser scanning microscopy and to Prof. Michael Bader (Max Delbruck Center of Molecular Medicine, Berlin Buch) for supervising the microinjection program and radiotelemetric measurements.

My sincere thanks also goes to GRK from DFG for its financial support. Sincere thanks are also to Prof Wolfgang Kübler (Spokesman of the Graduiertenkolleg) and Carola Kusch for her administrative support.
I would also like to thank Steffi Lindenau for helping me with important comments and suggestions and thanks to all other lab colleagues (Nico, Ibrahim, Markus, Juliane Bolbrinker, Norbert, Mathias, Stefan, Katharina, Gabi, Nadine, Manuela and Sandra) for their scientific help during the research program.

I am also very thankful to our technical assistant, Birgit Schwaneberg who not only introduced me to various techniques in the lab but also helped me with every problem concerning my practical work.

I am also thankful to my friends here in Berlin (Pramod and Beate and her family), Neha, Dipak, Supriya, Manoj, Manjeera, Ullas, Idrees, and all others who helped make my stay in Germany a very pleasant one.

Last but not the least I am also very thankful to the experimental animals for their sacrifices without which the study would not have been possible, may god keep their soul in peace.

Finally, I would express a deep sense of gratitude to my parents, especially to my dearest darling mom, who has always stood by me like a pillar in times of need and to whom I owe my life for her constant love, encouragement, moral support and blessings. Special thanks are due to my one and only loving brother Ankit and his wife Vinti who always strengthened my morale by standing by me in all situations.

AMIT SAXENA