Acknowledgements

Many people have offered their time and knowledge to help with the setting up and running of my microdialysis laboratory, and to solve all those little problems encountered during the work for this dissertation (much of which has not even been presented here). To all those (you know who you are!), thank you very much.

For answering all my questions on their products so swiftly and willingly, I thank Mr. Eike Logé from Axel Semrau, Mike Prow from BASi, and Peer Model from Microbiotech. Closer to home, I wish to thank Schering AG and our head of function Dr. Hille Gieschen for allowing me to carry out my work here, as well as the Free University Berlin and my Professor Dr. H. Fink for her guidance. I would also like to thank Dr. G. Arndt and Dr. R. Vonk for their invaluable advice on how to present my data understandably and above all correctly. A great many thanks go to my mentor Dr. Clemens Guenther for his infinite wisdom and for (almost) always being right. A special thank you also goes to my father, Dr. A.F. von Meier, who voluntarily came out of retirement to read my thesis.

Most importantly, I particularly want to thank my husband Dr. Stuart Ince for everything, not just the helpful suggestions. Thank you for your patience!