

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would first like to thank Vera Kalscheuer and Hans-Hilger Ropers for their guidance and support throughout this study, and for their helpful comments on this written work. I am also grateful to Professor Burghardt Wittig for supporting the project.

I would additionally like to thank Bettina Moser for her assistance with DHPLC, Maria Hoeltzenbein for participation in the clinical aspects of this research, and Susann Schweiger and Vanessa Suckow for their help with aspects of this study that involved protein. I am also particularly grateful to Corinna Menzel and Petra Viertel for their technical expertise in FISH experiments, and to Susanne Freier and Hannelore Madle for technical assistance with cell culture.

Genomic clones used in this study were provided by the Sanger Center and the German Resource Center for Genome Research (RZPD). In addition, RZPD has provided cDNA clones and genomic clone libraries. For these resources I am very appreciative.

I would like to thank the Euro/Australian MRX Consortium, and the clinical geneticists and cytogeneticists who have collected the clinical data that was used in this study. I also thank the patients and their families for their willingness to participate in this research.

For assistance with translation, I would specifically like to thank Stella Amrei-Kunde, Ulf Gurok, Michael Ristow, and Vera Kalscheuer. I would also like to thank Michael Ristow for his critical comments on this manuscript.

Finally, I want to acknowledge my colleagues Olivier Hagens, Luciana Musante, Kristine Freude, Jiong Tao, Kirsten Hoffmann, and Jens Ruschmann, who have created a pleasant working atmosphere and participated in helpful scientific discussions throughout, and my parents and siblings for their continued support, despite my current location.