## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I wish to express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. med. J. Hoyer and PD. Dr. R. Köhler for their intellectual advice and endless support during the course of this work. I am very grateful to Prof. Dr. F. Hucho for his warm encouragement.

Special thanks are due to Prof. Dr. M. Bader. I appreciate very much the collaboration and the stimulating discussions with him.

My thanks go to Prof. Dr. med. B. Wiedenmann and the Graduiertenkollegs 276/3 "Signalerkennung und -umsetzung". I appreciate very much the most informative scientific seminars.

Many thanks to Dr. Knobeloch for providing the E14.1 ES cells used in this study.

Warm thanks go to every other member of AG Prof. Dr. Hoyer for their continuous supports in experiments and the positive way of thinking.

Finally, I am most grateful to my family for their understanding of this work and support in my life.