## 10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My first words of acknowledgements I express them to my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Rainer H. Müller for his scientific guidance, continuous challenge and constant search for knowledge. I aim to express my gratitude for the opportunity he gave me to work in his research group, particularly with new drug delivery systems. Therefore, I thank him for sharing his theoretical background in the design and evaluation of such systems, as well as providing an integrated, sequenced series of topics that span the topical and dermal field. The dissemination of all the knowledge has not been always a timely or smooth process, nevertheless, it frequently led to more publications. His contagious enthusiasm for science in this particular field gave me hope to surmount all the obstacles and constant difficulties of research and development.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. António J. Almeida, at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Lisbon University, Portugal, for his inestimable assistance in the evaluation of my research work since I have started as a Master Student. I wish to thank him once more for having accepted the invitation to be one of the reviewers of my PhD Thesis.

I wish to thank Prof. Dr. Maurício Barbosa, at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Oporto University, Portugal, for his support since the beginning of my research stay in Berlin. I thank him for his promptitude and means that made my work possible.

I am particularly grateful to Dr. Wolfgang Mehnert, who made the transition of this document to the finished version much easier than it has been in the first case. I would like to thank him for sharing with me his storehouse of unique knowledge, which led to healthy scientific discussion of many subjects presented in this manuscript.

I am deeply thankful to Dr. Sylvia Wissing, for her co-supervision and her insightful suggestions during all the practical and theoretical work, as well as for being engaged in one or another way in providing me with a pleasant stay in Berlin.

A special thanks to Mrs. Gabriela Karsubke, for the unmeasured efforts and understanding. I also thank my colleagues at this research group, Norma Hernandez-Trejo, Torsten Göppert, Cornelia Keck, Jan Möschwitzer, Boris Petri, Nadiem Bushrab, Marc Muchow, Jens-Uwe

Junghanns, Andreas Lemke, Aiman Hommoss, Rachmat Mauludin, Veerawat Teeranachaideekul, Dr. Silke Templin, Dr. Ilona Buttle, Dr. Aslihan Akkar and Dr. Anne Saupe, for their wonderful friendship, support and patience, as well as for our helpful scientific discussions.

I owe a special thanks to Mrs. Corinna Schmidt and Mrs. Inge Volz for their valuable technical assistance, information and encouragement.

I am grateful to those who have helped me with advices during my life in this lovely city. I believe, honestly, that they have positively contributed to my personal growth. Finally, I owe special thanks to the scientist who will read this manuscript and enjoy it.

My deepest thanks are extended to my dearest friends and family, from whom I left to live this period of transition. I am thankful to all of them for their extraordinary enthusiasm and spontaneous generosity.

To my Grandparents, my Parents and my dearest sister Selma, I want to thank you for your endless love, continuous support and encouragement during all this time, across the distance. To you I express my ever-renewed fascination to know you as fabulous beings!