

5 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my mentor Professor Glenn Dranoff and my colleagues and collaborators Dr. F. Stephen Hodi Jr., Dr. Robert H. Vonderheide, Dr. Joachim L. Schultze, Dr. Britta Maecker and Kara Hoar in the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Dept. of Medical Oncology and the Brigham and Women's Dept. of Medicine/Harvard Medical School for their valuable intellectual and technical contributions to this work.

This work would have not been possible without the expertise in pathology of Drs. Martin C. Mihm Jr. (Dept. of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School) and Jeffrey L. Kutok (Dept. of Pathology, Brigham and Women's Hospital/HMS) and the technical support of their staff. Furthermore, I am indebted to Drs. Naoto Hirano and Gordon J. Freeman (Dept. of Medical Oncology, DFCI/HMS) for their helpful practical hints, critical remarks and mentorship.

I would also like to acknowledge the help of Dr. Edward A. Greenfield, Khoung Ngyuen and Shannon Bell in the DFCI's Hybridoma Core Facility, John F. Daley and Suzan Lazo-Kallanian in the DFCI's Flow Cytometry Core Facility and the staff of the DFCI's Kraft Family Blood Bank. I thank Drs. Jonathan S. Duke-Cohan (DFCI, Dept. of Cancer Immunology and AIDS/HMS), Emmanuel Zorn (DFCI, Dept. of Medical Oncology/HMS), Christian Pfeffer (DFCI, Dept. of Paediatric Oncology/HMS) and Stefan Heinrichs (DFCI, Dept. of Paediatric Oncology/HMS) for critical discussions.

The author was supported for one year by a Hochschulsonderprogramm III fellowship of the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD).

On a more personal note, I am very grateful for the moral support I received from family, friends and colleagues. Without their words of encouragement setbacks would have been much more difficult to abide. In particular, I would like to thank Isabelle Grass for her patience.