## PREFACE

The unique opportunity to conduct my work at the Forschungsinstitut für Molekulare Pharmakologie (Berlin, Germany) was made possible by the research grants of the Ernst Schering Research Foundation and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinshaft Grants (SFB 507 TP A2, DFG GK 238-2, DFG BL 308/6-1).

I am afraid it is not possible to thank personally all people who helped me to complete this thesis and made the difficulties of foreign life easier. Only a few of them I can express my gratefulness.

Among my mentors, I want to foremost thank Dr. Darkhan Utepbergenov for his invaluable directions and sensitive reading of the text. In fact, this work would never be finished without his cogent suggestions and stimulating questions. I want to thank Prof. Dr. Walter Rosenthal and Prof. Dr. Hartmut Oschkinat for critical reading of my thesis paper. Grateful acknowledgement is going to Dr. Ingolf Blasig who gave me the chance to work in his lab.

I owe a great deal to the mass spectrometry group and specially to Dr. Eberhard Krause, Heidemarie Lerch and Dr. Michael Schuemann, who analysed my not always perfect samples. It is a great pleasure to collaborate with you!!!

I am indebted also to my friends at FMP: Dr. Anke Schmidt who generously helped me during the development of this dissertation, and Dr. Reiner Haseloff, who cheerfully tamed my recalcitrant computer. During the last five years they dug me many times out avalanches of bureaucratic troubles.

I want to thank my American colleagues Julie Rasmussen and Dr. Alan Fanning for the critical reading of the text.

Last but not the least I want to thank my parents who always believed in me and supported all my undertakings.