

7. Acknowledgments

In the following, I would like to thank all the people who contributed to this project and supported my research activity throughout the years:

First of all, my sincerest appreciation and thanks goes to my lovely wife, Caroline, for her love and endless support, patience, critical review and help of many manuscripts, her continuing support of my clinical duties and research efforts and for our fantastic children Ruben and Larissa.

In addition, I would like to sincerely thank my mother and father, Paula and Johann Oberholzer as well as my brothers Hans-Martin, Christian and Matthias for their continuous help, motivation and support throughout my career.

Deep appreciation also goes to my mother and father - in law, Charlotte and Christoph Stocker as well as my brother – in law Christopher for their endless support and critiques .

I would like to thank my dear mentor of my doctoral thesis, Prof. Jon Largiadère, for his initializing support and motivation to explore the exciting fields of clinical research.

Also, I would like to appreciate the continuous support and mentorship of Prof. Wolfgang Ertel in the field of sepsis research.

Furthermore, I thank my mentor Prof. Lyle Moldawer for his endless support and helpful discussions in the field of gene therapy and inflammation.

Many thanks also go to Prof. Otmar Trentz for his continuing support and sincere mentorship.

Finally, I would like to give my sincere thanks to my doctoral students, laboratory technicians, post doctoral research fellows, scientific collaborators and friends throughout the years for helpful discussions, support and friendship:

Andrea Feilner, Arwed Hostmann, Amer Abouhamze, Anne Danks, Beth Hutchins, Charles A. Dinarello, Cynthia L. Tannahill, Daniela Novick, Drake LaFace, Emmanuel

Theodorakis, Frances R. Bahjat, Henry V. Baker, John Pribble, Keith S. Bahjat, Luc Harter, Marius Keel, Markus Hellmuth, Mary E. Hensler, Masashi Kurimoto, Marion Lemke, Michael A. Palladino, Michael J. Clare-Salzler, Oliver Liesenfeld, Philip A. Efron, Philip Stahel, Ralf Ignatius, Rebecca M. Minter, Ricardo Ungaro, Robert J. Feezor, Sonia Souza, Sven K. Tschoeke, Tatjana Gust, Ursula Steckholzer, Van Tsai and Zaher Abouhamze.