

Acknowledgments

The work presented in this thesis has been carried out at the Department of Gastroenterology, Klinikum Benjamin Franklin, Berlin, in the laboratory of Prof. C. Hanski, and was supported by Sonnenfeld Stiftung.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Christoph Hanski, for his scientific guidance and his patience and attention to detail in reviewing the draft thesis.

I would like to thank all my colleagues. In particular Dr. Enno Klussman, who made my first months in the lab easier, Marie-Luise Hanski for her invaluable experience in cell culture and Ursula Kobalz for excellent technical assistance. Ma thanks to Dr. Benno Mann from Surgical department for helpful discussions and for providing clinical samples. I would like to thank all other present and former members of the group, for help, discussions and friendly atmosphere: Dr. Anja Siedow, Markus Gelos, Dr.Christian Böhm, Dr.Christiane Bumke-Vogt, Dr.Steffen Backert and Dr.Eva Riede.

My special thanks to Mr.Haxter for skillfull computer support.