9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would first like to thank Prof. H.-H. Ropers, Prof. S. Mundlos and Dr. V. Kalscheuer for their support throughout this study. Moreover, I would like to thank Dr. Kalscheuer for her comments on this written work.

I am particularly grateful to Prof. H. Kreß for his permanent support, stimulating discussions and critical reading of this thesis.

I would like to thank Sabine Kübart for fruitful discussions and valuable suggestions, which helped in solving problems in many molecular experiments. Moreover, I thank her for moral support during hard times.

I would like to acknowledge Nicole Verhey van Wijk, a wonderful and patient teacher, for her help in all aspects of yeast and protein work and for her successful attempts to cheer me up.

I would additionally like to thank Corinna Menzel and Petra Viertel for their technical expertise in FISH experiments and Susanne Freier and Hannelore Madle for assistance in cell culture. I am grateful to Jens Ruschmann, Stella-Amrei Kunde, Gundula Leschik and Claudia Mischung for their assistance in sequence analysis, and Dietmar Vogt for assistance in plasmid preparation. I would also like to thank Andrea Albrecht for her cooperativeness and valuable comments on this manuscript and Norbert Brieske, Britta Hoffmann, Florian Witte and Christine Zwingmann for their assistance in RNA *in situ* hybridisation experiments.

I would like to acknowledge all colleagues from the Neurogenetics Group, the Disease and Development Group and all my co-workers from the Student Association at the Max Planck Institute for fruitful discussions and creating a pleasant working atmophere. My special thanks deserved Olivier Hagens, Beatriz Aranda and Joyce So for our numerous discussions during lunch breaks.

In the end I would like to thank my family and all my friends from Berlin, especially Urs Gruber, Michael Beck, Yoshimi Sugano, Bernd Hartmann, Katharina Schmidt-Brücken and Bettina Reiter for their continous moral support.