

Acknowledgements

The present study was achieved in the Department of Dermatology, University Medical Center Benjamin Franklin, Free University of Berlin, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Dr. C.C. Geilen.

This work was supported by the Berlin Foundation for Dermatology, through the East-Europe Fellowship for Continuing Education. I am deeply indebted to the Board of the Berlin Foundation for Dermatology for their support and their trust.

I wish to thank Prof. Dr. Dr. C.C. Geilen for providing the idea of this study, and for his permanent interest and support, his kind help and motivating supervision all through the elaboration of my thesis.

Many thanks for my colleagues Carola Müller, Stefan Barz, Meryem Bektas, Amir Hossini, from the Research Group of the Department of Dermatology, Free University of Berlin, for helping me learn new experimental techniques, for many good advice and fruitful discussions, and for a very friendly teamwork. Special thoughts for Christian Riebeling who was the first in our group to walk the "bisphosphonates' path"

All my gratitude, together with the highest consideration, belong to Prof. Dr. Prof. h.c. Constantin E. Orfanos, whose never failing benevolence, extremely kind support and constant encouragement and advising made this work possible.