ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Now it is achieved! I have looked forward so long to this moment!

Firstly I have to express my sincere gratitude to Eric Haaksma, who gave me the opportunity to work on this thesis alongside my regular employment.

I am heartily thankful to my supervisors, Rob Leurs, Eric Haaksma, Chris de Graaf and Iwan de Esch for the opportunity to work on this PhD project and also for the encouragement, guidance and support that enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject and to accomplish the project. My gratitude also goes to Sabine Schulte, Saskia Nijmeijer, Daniel Kuhn, Rogier Smits, Obbe P. Zuiderveld, Luc Roumen, Andrea C. van de Stolpe, Vera Lusink, Maikel Wijtmans, Esmee D. Geffen, and Henry Vischer, who directly or indirectly contributed to my project. I am also thankful for the kind hospitality and the support during my visits at the VU University Amsterdam from the whole medicinal chemistry department.

My special thanks go also to my co-workers at Boehringer Ingelheim RCV GmbH & Co KG, Sandra Döbel, Jochen Schön and Christian Engelhardt for their great support of several diploma students who worked on this project. In addition I express my gratitude to these diploma students, Julia Dobler, Katharina Stachurski and Corinna Heine who supported me enormously during synthesis of the compounds.

I am sincerely thankful to Moriz Mayer and his co-workers from the analytic department of Boehringer Ingelheim RCV GmbH & Co KG for their fantastic support in compound characterization. Furthermore I want to express my thanks to Dirk Scharn, Heribert Arnhof and their co-workers from the DMPK / CMC department of Boehringer Ingelheim RCV GmbH & Co KG for their great support during compound profiling. For final proofreading I am thankful to Chris Smethurst. In addition I have to express my sincere gratitude to Darryl McConnell, Jens Quant and Heinz Stadtmüller for the allocation of the necessary resources and infrastructure for synthesis, analysis and DMPK profiling of the compounds.
Acknowledgement

I am heartily thankful to my family for their indefatigable support during the last 5 years, which gave me enough leeway to concentrate on my thesis in addition to my regular employment.

Lastly, I offer my regards and blessings to all of those who supported me in any respect during the completion of the project and this thesis.