# CONTENTS

**Chapter 1**
General Introduction 7

**Chapter 2**
Cell mediated contraction in 3D cell-matrix constructs leads to spatially regulated osteogenic differentiation 19

**Chapter 3**
From skeletal development to tissue engineering: lessons from the micromass assay 41

**Chapter 4**
The effect of growth-mimicking continuous strain on the early stages of skeletal development in micromass culture 65

**Chapter 5**
Linear patterning of mesenchymal condensations is modulated by geometric constraints 83

**Chapter 6**
General Discussion 107

**Chapter 7**
Summary / Nederlandse samenvatting 121

**Appendices:**
- About the author 133
- List of publications 135
- Acknowledgements 137