Acknowledgements

I want to thank all lab members in Cologne and in Boston, without the help of whom this thesis would not have been possible. My special thanks go to Victoria Dreier, Angela Egert, Dvora Ghitza and Anke Leinhaas for technical assistance all around mice; and Natasha Barteneva, Christoph Göttlinger, Brigitte Hampel, Christine Königs, Claudia Uthoff-Hachenberg and Simone Willms for technical help with antibodies and FACS.

I want to thank Stefano Casola, Manfred Kraus, Mitsuo Maruyama and Kevin Otipoby for discussions and advice, Marc Schmidt-Supprian for critical reading of this thesis, Shalini Rana for critical reading and much more.

My very special thanks go to all the people that made the lab a great place to work and have fun at the same time. This includes the coffee crowd from Cologne, i.e. Holger Hoff, Silvi Lommel, Stefan Schwers, Christian Vosshenrich, Thomas Wunderlich and occasional others, as well as Dominik Schenten and Simone Willms who continued to drink coffee with me in Boston.

I am grateful to my supervisor Prof. Klaus Rajewsky, who supported me throughout this work.

Last but not least I want to thank my family, especially my parents Inga and Roland and my sister Jana, whose constant encouragement and support was crucial for the completion of this thesis. Thank you.