



PREFACE

The doctoral thesis in Biotechnology of Medical Sciences that I present was performed at the Center for Human Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, Clínica Alemana - Universidad del Desarrollo, in Santiago (Chile), and it was developed from May 2010 to February 2012.

The Director of the Center for Human Genetics, Dr. María Gabriela Repetto, MD, conducted the coordination of the thesis project at Santiago during this period and acted as professional contacts for communications between both Institutions, Centro de Genética Humana, Clínica Alemana-Universidad del Desarrollo and Dipartimento di Biologia e Genetica per le Scienze Mediche dell' Università Degli Studi di Milano.

Dr. Annemarie Ziegler, PhD, was the project supervisor and for the financial support through a Chilean Fondecyt Grant (Nº.1100605), entitled "Functional contribution and expression patterns of teneurin-2 and teneurin-4 in human ovarian cancer: A novel role for a conserved protein family involved in neural development".