

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who offered me guidance, support and encouragement during the preparation of this dissertation.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Professor Tadashi Baba for all his support and guidance throughout my research work.

I wish to express my deep thanks to Professor Eisuke Munekata for his support and encouragement.

I am grateful to Dr. Shin-ichi Kashiwabara for his valuable discussion and encouragement. Thanks are also given to Drs. Masaru Okabe, Kiyotaka Toshimori, Paul Primakoff, George L. Garton, Gary E. Olson, and Ryuzo Yanagimachi for their kind gifts of antibodies and technical supports. I also thank all the members of my laboratory, especially Mr. Arata Honda and Mr. Ko Ohmura for their continuous encouragement and assistance.

Finally, I would like to give my special thanks to my parents and sisters. Without their supports, it would not possible to carry my research.