Benny Johansson (1948) received his medical degree in 1980 from Lund University. After completing his internship at Lindesbergs Hospital, he started his training in Cardiology in Örebro where he got his specialist degrees in Clinical Physiology 1989, in Cardiology 1990 and in Internal Medicine 1993. He has been working for many years as a senior consultant in the department of cardiology with specialty echocardiography and intravascular ultrasound where he in the late 1990s was chairman in the Swedish IVUS society. He has also performed cineangiographic examinations of the coronary arteries as well as PCI procedures. He started his research in late 1990s by joining his research supervisor the thoracic surgery Domingos Souzas group who was working with a new no-touch vein graft preparation technique at coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). The conventional vein harvesting technique had a poor long-term patency rate at CABG and therefore a prospective randomized trial was initiated in 1993 in Örebro to compare the two harvesting techniques. The patients in this trial has now a follow-up period of 16 years.

In this thesis we have provided evidence that the no-touch harvesting technique has a superior long-term patency rate due to a delayed atherosclerotic process in the vein grafts which is associated with a preserved systolic left ventricular function after 16 years and also provided more totally asymptomatic patients during this follow-up period.

From this thesis it can be concluded that the no-touch technique has the potential to replace the conventional vein harvesting technique at CABG and consequently improve the patients outcome.