Acknowledgment

From Jennifer Lynne Bird:

Whenever I write a thank you page, I always hope I don’t forget anyone! Thanks to the entire team of people who made this project possible.

Thanks to our editor at IGI, Courtney Tychinski, and the rest of the publishing team who helped with this book. My co-editor Valerie Bryan and I have edited previous publications with IGI and it was wonderful to return for this one. Thanks also to all the authors of chapters in this book for sharing your research and stories. We would also like to share our gratitude for the Editorial Board, the dream team of intelligent and creative reviewers who never hesitated to help us with whatever needed to be done.

Every day I feel blessed to belong to my amazing family who supports my dreams and makes me feel I can do anything. Much love to Dann Bird, Diane McLoughlin, Susie DeBeck, Bill DeBeck, Robin Perry, David Bird, Patricia Bird, Melissa Bird, Derek Bird, Gabrielle Bird, Marsha Bird, Sandy Bridges, Joanna Claridge, Mike Bridges, Carl Claridge, Erica Younkvich, Daniel Younkvich, Margaret Earl, Tim Earl, Michael Schafer, Cher Schafer, Benjamin Schafer, Crystal Schafer, Arthur Bruggisser, Brian Bruggisser, Amanda Bruggisser, Lucy Bird, Andy Bird, and all the new kids in the family!

I am writing these words now because of the support from all my friends, colleagues, and students throughout the years. The names are too numerous to mention in this space, but please know that I thank you for being part of my life and appreciate the role each one of you played in my journey throughout the years.

And to Marilyn Kepler Bird, I know somehow you can read these words. Thanks for being my guardian angel and the reason I ventured into the medical field.

From Valerie C. Bryan:

My first thank you is to Jennifer Lynne Bird who was always present to keep the book rolling alone. She did a superb job of organizing and shepherding the book forward despite all the initial obstacles we were both encountering. We were both aware when we started this book that the topic meant a great deal to both of us—we both were passionate about the topic. What we were not aware of was the chapters would come alive to us individually as we engaged in this adventure. Thank you, Courtney Tychinski, for keeping us on target despite the numerous obstacles.

Our authors and ourselves were ‘living’ what we were writing about: the healing narratives; coping skills; the role of collaboration; varied forms of dealing with others, ourselves and even animals; new training
of health professionals regarding *how to promote comprehensive and holistic care; self-management* and the role it plays; and last, but certainly not least, *death and grief of loss*. Because of this, I especially want to thank all of our superb authors and our remarkable editing team. Many of us have experienced health issues and stress for ourselves or our loved ones, loss of a loved one or loss of a career or a way of life. We have each found a way as we were writing, to learn more about how to cope and collaborate with our health professionals and how to encourage them to do the same with us. Specifically, to the authors—thank you for finding the time to put your heart and scholarship on each page. It is evident that you are each unique in your contributions.

I want to thank my department for allowing me to do labors of love as part of my scholarship. I want to thank my family for supporting me even though the effort took me away from them and their health issues, and even my own health issues, at times. I want to also acknowledge the passing of a great doctoral student during the writing of this book, that would have loved to add chapters and chapters to the book, of good and bad, based on her experience with cancer and the health care system and the role of a community in addressing illnesses. She inspired me every day as I wrote. I also have to acknowledge that my Dad who continues to inspire me *to write and lead from the heart*. Thanks, Dad, for that lesson.