About the Authors

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Swamy Laxminarayan currently serves as the chief of biomedical information engineering at Idaho State University. Previous to this, he held several senior positions both in industry and academia. As an educator, researcher and technologist, Prof Laxminarayan has been involved in biomedical engineering and information technology applications in medicine and healthcare for over 25 years and has published more than 250 scientific and technical articles in international journals, books and conferences. Professor Laxminarayan is very actively involved in the IEEE activities for over 20 years. He is the founding editor-in-chief and editor emeritus of the IEEE Transactions on Information Technology in Biomedicine. He served as an elected member of the administrative and executive committees in the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society and as the Society’s vice president for two years. He currently serves as an elected member-at-large of the IEEE Publications Services and Products Board and on the administrative board of the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering. His contributions to the discipline have earned him numerous national and international awards. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, a recipient of the IEEE 3rd Millennium Medal and a recipient of the Purkynje Award from the Czech Academy of Medical Societies, a recipient of the Career Achievement Award, numerous outstanding accomplishment awards and twice recipient of the IEEE EMBS distinguished service award.
Brian Lehaney is head of the Statistics and Operational Research Subject Group and professor of systems management at Coventry University, UK. His research is in the area of decision support for organizations in both the private and public sectors. It includes the theories and application of simulation modelling, intervention methodologies and knowledge management. Professor Lehaney has developed the mixed-mode modelling approach to decision support. He publishes widely in internationally renowned journals, including the *Journal of the Operational Research Society* and the *Journal of End User Computing*. His books include *Mixed-Mode Modelling: Mixing Methodologies for Organisational Intervention* (Kluwer). His latest book is titled *Beyond Knowledge Management* (2004, Idea Group). Professor Lehaney recently completed an EC-funded project on the development of tools and methodologies for knowledge sharing within organizations. Other related projects are in the process of development.

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Martin Orr is a psychiatrist, a doctoral student at Southern Cross University, a senior lecturer at Auckland University and a clinical director of information services for the Waitemata District Health Board (Auckland, New Zealand). Dr. Orr is involved on a daily basis in the pragmatics of meeting the “opportunities and challenges” of developing health knowledge systems. His key research interests lie in working with the dedicated professionals that through the development, implementation and utilization of health knowledge systems, strive to “make a healthy difference” for their communities. Dr. Orr attempts to capture (in combination with related literature) key issues and knowledge gathered from working with these groups, in the form of visual and mnemonic models. His hope is that these evolving models will assist others in their development of health knowledge systems. Dr. Orr’s expertise includes: health knowledge systems, privacy issues, conceptual and visual models.

Teemu Paavola has worked in teleoperator business development, in academic life, and as a member of technology strategy group of Sonera Plc (later TeliaSonera Plc). He is currently managing director and CEO of LifeIT Plc, a joint venture of a Finnish health district and private organizations like TietoEnator Plc. Paavola is a licentiate of technology from the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management of the Helsinki University of Technology. He has contributed to numerous articles on the development of telemedicine and information technology management. He has also served in several elected posts in the international science community.

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