About the Contributors

**Prof. Dr. Andrew Targowski** was engaged in the development of social computing in totalitarian Poland (*INFOSTRADA and Social Security # for 38 million citizens-PESEL*, 1972) and received political asylum in the U.S. during the crackdown on solidarity in 1981. He has been a professor of business information systems at Western Michigan University since 1980. He published 21 books on information technology, history, and political science (*Red Fascism*, 1982) in English and Polish. During the 1990s, he was a director of the TeleCITY of Kalamazoo Project, one of the first digital cities in the U.S. He investigates the role of information-communication in enterprise, economy, and civilization. He is a president of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations and a former chairman of the Advisory Council of the Information Resources Management Association (1995-2003).

**Dr. Ali. M. Metwalli** was born in Egypt and received his bachelor’s degree in commerce from Cairo University. He has a MBA from Siena Collage in New York State and he earned his PhD in business administration from St. Louis University in Missouri. He has served in the healthcare industry in various executive, research, and consulting positions since 1965. He moved to Grand Rapids in 1980 to teach for Western Michigan University and served as director of the MBA program in Grand Rapids campus from 1985 until the end of 1999. He continues to teach at WMU, conduct research, and consult independently. He is a co-founder of MW Stone Importers, LTD. Dr. Metwalli has served as a chairman of the Board (Shora Committee) of the Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute in Grand Rapids for the last two years. He served for six years as a member of the board of directors of the West Central Michigan American Red Cross. He also served on the advisory council for the American College of Healthcare Executives, and is active in numerous other civic and university activities. He has a long list of publications in a number of academic journals focusing on global business and finance. His last publication in 2006 is a book in international finance that focuses on mergers and acquisitions in Asia.