## Acknowledgment

The author could not have written this book without the support of many people. First, he would like to thank his classes in health care informatics at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County who have been using versions of this book for six years. The book was published by Hypermedia Solutions Limited in three earlier editions, beginning in 2001 as *Information Systems for Health Care Enterprises* and followed in 2003 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition and in 2005 by the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. The students have not only provided useful feedback, but the motivation to provide worthwhile material to them has been the reason that this book was written. The author is also very grateful to the support of IGI Global, for working with him for the updates and refinements to create this 4<sup>th</sup> edition called *Information Systems and Health Care Enterprises*.

The Johns Hopkins Healthcare Informatics seminars and the University of Maryland Baltimore Nursing Informatics seminars have been a source of valuable information. Dr. Scott Finley, Director of Oncology Clinical Information Systems at Hopkins Medical System, helped this author become intimate with the challenges facing a large institution that tries to integrate its oncology information systems needs with the needs of other departments in the institution. Collaboration with the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society through the author's leadership of its HIPAA Special Interest Group was part of an opportunity to get closer to the diversity of concerns in the practicing healthcare informatics community. Phoenix Health Systems is an outsourcing and consulting company with which the author has had an opportunity to collaborate, particularly through D'Arcy Gue, in developing plans for small group practices to deal with modern regulatory requirements, and the impressive practices of that company have inspired the desire to pay attention to the day-to-day information systems concerns of small health care entities. Working

with Mel York of the Department of Public Health in Washington, DC, on regulatory compliance provided a view from the other side.

The Department of Computer Science at Wayne State University gave this author his first opportunity to create and teach an undergraduate, full-semester medical informatics course in 1981. Collaboration with Dr. Laurens Ackerman at Henry Ford Hospital and Dr. George Kaldor at the local Veterans Administration Hospital helped the author provide concrete examples to students of applications of information systems in hospitals.

The author was first introduced to medical informatics by Dr. Alan Levy at Baylor College of Medicine while the author was a medical student. Dr. Levy moved to the University of Illinois and recruited this author to become a National Library of Medicine postdoctoral fellow at the University of Illinois. Subsequently, the author became a senior administrator and researcher at the National Library of Medicine. Reporting to Dr. Donald Lindberg was an opportunity to see one of the fathers of medical informatics in action.

The author is indebted to his family. His loving parents were themselves healthcare professionals and wanted their son to contribute to healthcare. Finally, the author's wife has provided, through her endless goodwill and her support for their children, an environment conducive to writing.