

## Acknowledgment

The editors express their deep gratitude to the chapter authors whose original contributions served as the foundation for this important handbook.

The editors also would like to acknowledge and express their appreciation to all members of the editorial board who generously allocated their time and expertise to reviewing the manuscripts which was a significant contribution to the overall quality of the publication. Special thanks to Dr. Andriani Daskalaki, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Genetics, Germany, Dr. Sotirios Bisdas, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Germany, Dr. Iordanis Evangelou, National Institutes of Health, USA, Dr. Anastasia Kastania, Athens University of Economics & Business, Greece, Dr. Konstantinos Konstantinidis, General Hospital Salzburg, Austria, and Dr. Melpomeni Lazakidou, Institute of Occupational Medicine, Salzburg, Austria.

Kristin Roth, Kristin Klinger and Julia Mosemann, acquisitions/development editors, provided editorial assistance and guidance during the development phase, and Jan Travers, managing director, provided guidance and support over the year since the project began.

Special thanks to IGI Global. Without you, we could not have completed this undertaking.

This book is respectfully dedicated to the newborn baby Marios, who was born during the production of this handbook.

*Athina A. Lazakidou, PhD and Konstantinos M. Siassiakos, PhD*  
*Editors*

**Athina Lazakidou** is lecturer in Health Informatics at the University of Peloponnese at the Department of Nursing in Sparta, Greece. From September 2002 she worked at the University of Piraeus, Greece as a teaching assistant, and at the Hellenic Army Academy & Hellenic Naval Academy, Greece as a visiting lecturer in informatics. Prior to that, she worked also as a visiting lecturer at the Department of Computer Science at the University of Cyprus (2000-2002). She did her undergraduate studies at the Athens University of Economics and Business (Greece) and received her BSc in computer science in 1996. In 2000, she received her PhD. in medical informatics from the Department of Medical Informatics, University Hospital Benjamin Franklin at the Free University of Berlin, Germany. She is also an internationally known expert in the field of computer applications in healthcare and biomedicine, with seven books and numerous papers to her credit. She was also editor of the “Handbook of Research on Informatics in Healthcare and Biomedicine”, which is one of the best authoritative reference sources for information on the newest trends and breakthroughs in computer applications applied to healthcare and biomedicine. Her research interests include health informatics, e-Learning in medicine, software engineering, graphical user interfaces, (bio)medical databases, clinical decision support systems, hospital and clinical information systems, electronic medical record systems, distributed medical systems, telemedicine, and other applications in health care.