

## Acknowledgment

I would like to begin by thanking each of the contributors to this Handbook for the effort devoted to this project and for the excellent work and commitment in the preparation of each chapter. It has been a truly enriching professional experience to work with this group of distinguished colleagues from different disciplines and academic backgrounds.

I also am indebted to all colleagues that accepted to assist me in the review process of several manuscripts, within their field of expertise, and whose names are listed at the front of the book as members of the editorial advisory board and in the list of reviewers, as well as some contributing authors who also served as reviewers. The constructive and helpful comments they offered and their attention to detail helped to improve the quality of each individual manuscript and as a result the overall quality of the Handbook

For the support in the preparation of this publication, I also thank the publishing team at IGI Global, in particular Elizabeth Ardner, with whom I worked most closely throughout the development of the Handbook, for her professionalism and commitment, and Tyler Heath for a similar participation in the initial stage of this project.

Any factual errors or lapses that survived the editorial process are, needless to say, my responsibility.

*Carlos Nunes Silva*  
*Editor*