

Preface

This book is the outcome of a delightful and remarkable learning experience. I hope that you will learn as much as the contributors who have been involved in the process.

For me, the journey to explore economic dynamics and modern biotechnology began a number of years ago, in the European and European-American communities working on neo-Schumpeterian economics, innovation processes and science and technology. Without thanking them by name, I am privileged to have met some remarkable individuals along the way. These individuals have continued to influence my conceptualization of science, technology and innovation as inherently economic activities. Some of you have been directly involved in this book, as friends and colleagues.

For the co-editors and PhD students involved in this book, the learning experience also relies on our network 'Management and Economics of Biotechnology'. This network is run by Jens, Annika and I of the School of Technology Management and Economics, Chalmers University of Technology, but our participants are distributed around Sweden. Participants bring together their experiences from firms, government agencies and academic research in natural science/bioengineering and in social sciences (including economics and business). Many thanks to each and every one of you. Even if our network discussions may not be directly mentioned or recorded here, I speak for the whole Chalmers group in thanking you for allowing detailed insights and thereby stimulating our thinking.

This book is more directly the result of an international workshop and a collaborative effort of my colleagues at Chalmers University of Technology. Jens, Annika and I together with the excellent support of Johan Brink (PhD student) organized the workshop 'The Economics and Business of Bio-Sciences and Bio-Technology' at Hällsnäs and Chalmers in September 2002. Despite the beautiful autumnal weather – in a Scandinavian forest by a lake – the workshop participants from around Europe wouldn't stop talking! Naturally, I take this as a positive sign, signalling their concentration and interest in the original empirical data and deeper theoretical issues of the workshop. Thank you all! Of the 19 workshop papers presented, we selected 10 chapters for inclusion in this book.

In the process of moving from an initial idea for a workshop into a book, Jens, Annika and I have shared the work. We have worked together in our

aim not only to deliver an edited anthology of papers on time, but more than that, to form these contributions and thoughts into a book with a message. They have made valuable comments on all chapters. Moreover, that is why the book now has four co-authored chapters to form the starting-point and ending-point for this book, rather than the standard one chapter introduction to the anthology. In this process, we have benefited from comments, with thanks particularly to Magnus Holmén, Stéphane Malo, Vincent Mangematin, Keith Smith and other participants at our Chalmers May 2003 workshop 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship: IT/Telecommunication and Biotech/Pharmaceuticals'. The usual caveats apply. Linus Dahlander (PhD student) has helped at the end of the process in delivering the manuscript to the publisher.

Luckily, we three co-editors have complementary skills and personalities. I say 'luckily', given that the two of them have had to cope with me, a co-editor, who is at least occasionally chaotic and overcommitted as well as who may change her mind about where the book is headed. But for me, it has been a pleasure to work together. The same for my other co-authors. Many thanks also to Dymphna Evans, our editor at Edward Elgar, for her support and belief in this manuscript. And I don't think any other of my book editors will ever beat your speed of response!

These ideas and lively debates in the international academic communities, network and workshop would not of themselves have led to this book. In addition, a book requires time, effort and resources. You could say that resources are necessary to make this book into a codification of some ideas and results into words, figures and diagrams – as captured in subsequent pages.

This book would not have been possible without the contributions of each author, with their respective intellectual environments and financiers. Thank you very much for participating! The list of contributors and their scientific settings gives some idea of the diversity of the community working on these issues, as it has been emerging in Europe.

Most importantly, the financiers have played an important role in the workshop as well as in the writing and editing process for the book. I would like to acknowledge the support of the following projects.

- 'Dynamics of Knowledge in IT and Bio-Science' (a faculty-wide strategic project) financed by the School of Technology Management and Economics, Chalmers University of Technology;
- 'Endowment for McKelvey chair in Economics of Innovation', Office of the President, Chalmers University of Technology;
- 'Economic Dynamics of Knowledge in Bio-Science' financed by VINNOVA; administered by IMIT;

- 'From Where Does Novelty Arise? Flexibility and Stability through Innovation' financed by the Ruben Rausing Foundation; administered by IMIT.

Without you, this book would not have been possible.

Maureen McKelvey
Wienhausen convent, Germany;
Copenhagen Airport, Denmark;
and Kärrbogårde, Sweden

