Acknowledgements

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I am deeply grateful for the efforts of about 24 authors and co-authors from 17 countries involved in this volume. They fall in two different groupings: a small group that I invited to write a chapter for this volume and those who submitted a paper for publication to the McGill International Entrepreneurship (MIE) Conference. There is a long and winding road from a new and innovative submission to an MIE-related publication. MIE conferences encourage exploratory, innovative and path-breaking submissions. Traditionally, a submission involves a double-blind peer review and a revision is required before acceptance for presentation at an annual conference. The conference is organized and conducted in a similar manner to a research workshop, involving only a limited number of presentations, to foster deeper understanding and discussion and possibly a convergence on innovative and cutting-edge issues, or topics at hand. The authors are asked to incorporate the essence of comments, feedback and scholarly discussions of their conference papers in their revision, through a process known in the MIE community as “self-improvement revision”. Such revised and returned papers are then peer-reviewed in a double-blind fashion and a revision is requested. Once a revised paper is accepted, the early version of a chapter is born, and only then, the thorough editorial process of Edward Elgar Publishing could start.

As you may have guessed, the second group to whom I am indebted and also grateful for their professional editorial efforts is Edward Elgar Publishing. The partnership of MIE and Edward Elgar is not accidental – Elgar also seeks and publishes cutting edge materials. Due to the unselfish efforts of an excellent team of editors and professionals in a quality publishing house, readers experience no difficulty in reading the materials, and authors and editors face no major problem as the manuscript travels smoothly through the numerous stages in preparation for publication. Publishing, regardless of the form and milieu, is always riddled with prob-
problems, but the comments of scholarly reviewers, the editor, professional editors and the supportive staff of publishing houses resolve the problems so that the reader would not be at a loss. At the publishing end, experience, patience and methodical attention to every little detail — *professionalism, in one word* — characterize Elgar and are its hallmark in publishing. In the case of the present volume, these efforts began with Mr Alan Sturmer, the Senior Acquisition Editor of Elgar’s North American operations (at the Northampton, Massachusetts office of Elgar), who has participated in all MIE conferences held in North America and is an outstanding member of a genuinely dedicated team of professionals at Edward Elgar Publishing. The size of the behind-the-scenes team is quite large and I cannot recognize them all, as many of them did not deal directly with me; thus with the risk of missing a few, I would like to highlight a short list of those with whom I have had repeated correspondence over the past two years and who have contributed significantly to preparing the chapters of this volume. The Senior Desk Editor, Ms Elizabeth Clack, is an extraordinary professional and accommodated all of us with care, diligence and patience while making up for our collective delays to keep the publishing process on schedule. A special thanks goes to the copy editor, Ms Cathrin Vaughan, who shouldered the heavy burden of preparing the manuscript. She carefully read, edited, and suggested improvements and sent us long lists of queries and corrections. She then incorporated our replies into the manuscript, sometimes after numerous clarifying queries. The term “preparing the manuscript” does not convey the painstaking process of editing a manuscript, especially when the authors’ mother tongues are not English. Additionally, Cathrin’s and Elizabeth’s rich experience, diligent efforts and proven competencies avoided many potential difficulties. Stated briefly, your smooth reading is due to the competence of a group of dedicated professionals whose names do not appear in the various chapters. The story is not very different for the Sales and Marketing Department of Elgar that communicates with the scholarly community and society at large. I have been fortunate to deal with the same capable executives, Ms Katy Wight of the US office and her counterpart Ms Hilary Quinn in the UK office, over the past two to three volumes in the MIE Series. Early on in the process, Katy Wight asked for the very first short and descriptive piece for publicizing the volume and she also took the initiative of editing, shortening and making it more informative. In short, my interactions with the Elgar organization have been very pleasant and professional. Therefore, it is only fitting to recommend them highly to authors and editors with no reservations.

Finally, my involvement with the Annual McGill International Entrepreneurship Conference series (now in its 16th annual edition), the
Elgar–McGill International Entrepreneurship book series, which includes this volume, the *Journal of International Entrepreneurship* that has already completed a decade of quarterly publications and the network of international entrepreneurship scholars (www.ie-scholar.net), among others, are extensions of my active life in McGill University and participation in the community. Naturally, without the generous and unquestioned support of many institutions and individuals, including McGill University, Desautels Faculty of Management, Elgar, and a host of other friends and colleagues that I have not named, I could not carry on. I shall remain eternally grateful for their advice, friendship, collegiality and support. My most profound note of thanks is extended to my wife, Shokouh K. Etemad and my son, Farshid C. Etemad. The solitary and time-consuming nature of scholarly work shifts the burden of many tasks and responsibilities to other family members and my case is no exception.

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