Acknowledgments

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The contributions of numerous individuals and institutions stand out. The critical roles and full participation of scholars in the McGill International Entrepreneurship (MIE) conferences cannot be exaggerated. This diverse and accomplished group of researchers and scholars has been both the powerful engine and the inspiring force behind the conference series. The success of the MIE conference and publication series is a scholarly tribute to them (see the Preface for a selective list of publications).

Without the financial support and moral encouragement of John Dobson and the John Dobson Foundation’s dedication to excellence in entrepreneurship (and international entrepreneurship by extension), we could not have achieved what we have attained routinely at MIE. Not only is John Dobson a highly successful international entrepreneur in his own right, he has been the enabling force behind entrepreneurship studies in Canada for the past two decades. Furthermore the support of the John Dobson Foundation for entrepreneurship education across the country has made entrepreneurial studies rewarding and successful. Our scholarly community has benefited tremendously from John’s genuine support and encouragement and, on behalf of all who have benefited, I would like to extend a special thank you to him and to the Foundation.

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owner–manager of his own firms, an executive of the Power Corporation, new product manager of DuPont Corporation, senior consultant at Cooper and Lybrand and a member of many corporate boards, to name a few, make him especially indispensable as a friend and colleague. My former colleague and director of the Business and Management Research Centre, Cheryl McWatters, was a source of constant moral support and encouragement. My current colleagues, Emine Sarıgöl and Dennis Senik, have always extended a helping hand whenever needed.

Lorraine Vezina, my secretary for more than a decade, has been indispensable. She has gradually become one of the principal supporting pillars, functioning simultaneously as the MIE Conference coordinator, and the back-up person of last resort, who finds timely solutions to administrative and support-related problems with calm and patience.

We have all benefited from, and enjoyed, the services of the capable staff of the McGill International Executive Institute that has housed and supported the MIE conference series graciously and professionally over the past six years. These efforts merit full recognition. Special thanks go to my bright and dedicated students, Amanda Skoda, Isabella Dagenais and Marie-Hélène Perron, who managed to excel as undergraduate students while assisting with numerous aspects of the MIE conference series. These academic entrepreneurs did not shy away from the challenges of new fields and new concepts along with their much older professors.

Ironically, the signs of an excellent editor and a quality publishing house are lost when authors and editors face no major problem as the manuscript travels through the various preparatory stages. This gives the erroneous impression that there were no problems to solve in the first place. Our personal experience, however, indicates otherwise. Publishing, regardless of form and milieu, is riddled with problems. Professional editors and their staff in supportive publishing houses dissolve problems before they can develop. Experience, patience and methodical attention to detail – in a word, professionalism – characterize Elgar and are among Elgar’s special qualities, rarely found elsewhere. Alan Sturmer, the Acquisition Editor of Elgar’s North American Operations (Northampton, Massachusetts), stands among a host of truly capable and genuinely dedicated professionals. Again the team is large and I will not be able to recognize them all. I must make do by only highlighting a short list of those with whom I have had direct and repeated contacts over the past years. The Associate Editor, Tara Gorvine, at the Northampton office and the Senior Desk Editor, Karen McCarthy, in the United Kingdom office shouldered the real brunt of preparing the manuscript. I know full well that their proven competencies and diligent efforts behind the scenes avoided many unforeseen difficulties. At the interfaces of Edward Elgar, the scholarly community and society at large are two capable marketing executives: Katy Wight, in charge
of the North and the South American markets, and Hilary Quinn, marketing in the rest of the world. As compared to other experiences, I can hardly characterize my interactions with the Elgar organization as work, as it was done so professionally and pleasantly. I always knew that we were on the right path, which always turned out to be short and fruitful.

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