Foreword

I take much pleasure in contributing the Foreword to this outstanding *Handbook of Family Business*. Having dedicated my academic life to the field of family business, I am excited to observe that now, decades after humble beginnings in the 1970s, that this topic is gaining increasing momentum. The growing number of rigorous research projects is promising, and now, academia is taking into account the fact that family enterprises are dominant around the world.

The study of family business is challenging, to say the least. This line of inquiry is interdisciplinary in nature, involving different fields such as finance, organizational behaviour, law, tax, child psychology and ethics, to name a few. In order to master the challenges associated with studying disparate topics like these, one not only requires a broad education but also extensive experience and a disciplined way of thinking.

Family business research was international and interdisciplinary from the outset. Interestingly, the editors of this book mirror this aspect of the field: emanating from three different countries, namely Cyprus, Australia and Germany, and respectively, their principal academic disciplinary backgrounds are entrepreneurial management, psychology and strategy. Panikkos Poutziouris, Kosmas Smyrniotis, and Sabine Klein are a team typical of the family business arena.

The editors have collated a selection of notable papers, all of which have been blind peer reviewed. As a senior scholar of this field, this handbook contributes substantially to furthering this area, serving as a watershed for research students and investigators. Consistent with this view, I sincerely hope that this scholarly text is only the start of a long line of tradition founded by IFERA in encouraging researchers to undertake rigorous and relevant projects and to publish them in volumes like the one you are holding in your hands.

Miguel Angel Gallo
Professor Emeritus, IESE Business School
University of Navarra, Barcelona, Spain
Honorary President IFERA