Foreword

Leif Edvinsson

It is a pleasure to write this Foreword to the latest *Handbook* on intellectual capital (IC) research. More than ever today, intangibles and IC are the drivers of economic, utility, social and environmental value. I am a foundational practitioner of IC. I was appointed as the World's First Director of Intellectual Capital in 1991 at Skandia Insurance Group, where I prototyped IC development for almost ten years. I was then appointed as the World's First Professor of Intellectual Capital at Lund University in 1990, followed by a Professorship at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

I have known the lead editor, John Dumay, for nearly a decade. I spent a sunny fall afternoon in Stockholm with John in 2012 as an interviewee for his latest research. At that time, John was already establishing himself as an IC scholar. We discussed how IC needed to go beyond the traditional metrics and how scholars needed to learn from cross-disciplinary initiatives, something I call IC foresight, prototyped by platforms such as the Skandia Future Center. Since then, John and his colleagues, including Christian Nielsen and Morten Lund, have been paving a way forward to understand how IC research can continue to develop insights into how IC creates value; not just for companies but also for the wider community. This *Handbook* offers many such opportunities.

Thus, if you are looking for a book that will take you into the future of IC foresight, this book is for you. Several familiar names are the authors of the chapters within. Other emerging scholars join them to offer innovative insights on how to keep IC foresight relevant. We need to maintain relevance as we invest in a future where social and environmental sustainability goals transcend economic goals. Society 5.0 is demanding much more positive outcomes. This *Handbook* offers a way forward to start achieving those outcomes and impact through IC foresight.

The World's First Professor of Intellectual Capital
Leif Edvinsson

Awarded Brain of the Year by Brain Trust,
UK, 1998, for pioneering IC