Acknowledgements

Many people, community service providers, health care providers, government agencies and charitable organizations contributed in essential ways to this Handbook and we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation funded our research on the geriatric health care system, and the public education work that followed, notably this publication. In this and in all of our work, our Program Officer, Kathleen Christensen, provided far-sighted leadership in bringing visibility to the needs of working families through research and action.

Those who provided significant advice and guidance at various stages in the development of the Handbook — and greatly contributed to its overall value and relevance to the lives of family caregivers — include: the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO); members of the Caregiver Support Group at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates; members of the Alzheimer's Support Group convened by Mystic Valley Elder Services; Leslie Ahern, Family Care Advisor, ETHOS; Joan Butler, Executive Director, Minuteman Senior Services; Marion Eisenberg, Director, Caregiver Alliance; Bryna Lansky, Growing Older Information Products; and Al Norman, Executive Director of Mass Home Care.

Expert reviewers of the manuscript not only gave generously of their time but considerably improved the substance and accuracy of the Handbook. They are: Joan Berlin, LICSW, Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates; Robert Buxbaum, MD, Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates; Rose Cain, JD; Roberta Campbell;

Michelle Goody, Director of Elder Community Support Programs, Executive Office of Elder Affairs; Rebecca Gutman, SEIU/1199; Michele Hughes, ProActive Elder Care; Sheila Donahue-King, Director of the Massachusetts Family Caregiver Support Program, Executive Office of Elder Affairs; and Mark Yurkofsky, MD, Chief of the Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates Geriatric, Palliative Medicine and Post-Acute Care Program.

We are also indebted to Joanne Batziotegos and Tammy Buzzell for their dedication and meticulous work in compiling the Directory of Massachusetts Gateway Organizations, Section 8.

We owe special thanks and deep appreciation to the geriatric health care professionals at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates who participated in the early stages of the MIT Workplace Center's research and taught us an enormous amount about geriatric and palliative care. Their colleagues — Steve Kolodziej at the German Centre for Extended Care and Helene Quinn at Sherrill House — were instrumental in helping us to contact the families of the elders they serve.

Finally, we thank the family caregivers of elders who agreed to be interviewed for this project. They gave generously of their time when most had little time to spare, and shared their experiences and wisdom about the challenges facing family caregivers. We hope this Handbook addresses some of the unmet needs they identified, and will be a part of expanding supports for the family caregivers of elders throughout Massachusetts.