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Many of these chapters have been written by those who have taught in the End of Life Certificate Program at Smith or have been recipients of PDIA Leadership Grants themselves. They are wonderful practitioners and scholars who have made a tremendous contributions to the field, who are able to convey their work with enormous respect for the patients and families with whom they have worked. They represent what is best about the social work profession: in their unswerving commitments to at-risk populations, ethical practice, patient-centered care, advocacy on behalf of those least able to advocate for themselves, and creative approaches to theory and to practice. Among the authors in this book are also lawyers, psychologists, nurses, and physicians.
whose scholarship, practice experiences, leadership, and personal narratives embody social work values: dignity and respect for the dying and their families. They were initially invited to contribute to this book because of particular areas of expertise outside of the field of social work, but their compassion, empathy, knowledge, and skill represent what we consider to be the best kind of social work care at the end of life. I am grateful to each of the contributors, then, for upholding the values and ethics of the profession and for allowing us, the readers, into the rich and complex contexts in which they live and work.

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—Joan Berzoff

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— Phyllis Silverman