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It goes without saying that this book is the stronger, the deeper, and the wiser for the absolutely high standards, skills, knowledge and expertise of my coeditor, Phyllis Silverman, whose tireless energy, to my amazement, outstrips my own. She has been a wonderful collaborator in the truest sense of the word: a colleague, a teacher, a friend and an adversary with whom I could differ respectfully.

This book has also received support from Acting Dean Carolyn Jacobs, who found the resources to ensure its completion and afforded me the time to do the same.

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.

I am also very grateful to those who have supported me so that I could complete this book. Once again my boys, Zeke and Jake, have been wonderfully supportive despite their shared view that their mother's distraction might become a permanent state. They have been funny, comforting, and distracting too, and I am deeply grateful to them both. My dear husband, Lew Cohen—my soulmate, my colleague, and my friend—has, as ever, created the space for me to work creatively and provided the resources to do so, as well as the intellectual rigor that contributed so much to my thinking.

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—Joan Berzoff

I want to thank Joan Berzoff for inviting me to join her in editing this book. It proved to be an exciting and stimulating collaboration. We started by identifying all our differences and ended realizing that we had learned a great deal from each other. The gap between us has narrowed considerably, and we are proud of what our com-

bined efforts and energy has produced. In this process, she also brought me back to my social work roots and helped to reestablish my connection to my alma mater, Smith College School for Social Work. I am also grateful for the opportunity this work presented to test out how some of my thinking fits into end-of-life care.

I must add my husband and my daughter. My husband knew when to take me to dinner as we pushed to meet deadlines and helped get references that seemed obscure and out of reach. My daughter, Gila, edited my copy to ensure that I was making sense. I also want to thank Lu Farber for doing a final reading of my history chapter. This was beyond her family obligations as my cousin's wife.

I have advocated for writers to have a support group to give them encouragement, help them clarify ideas, and review their work critically. The Writer's Study Group at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University is mine. Members of the group read my chapter on bereavement and carefully contributed to making my writing clearer and easier to understand. I appreciate this help, but even more important to me was the approbation they gave me for my relational approach to grief.

Several of my friends and colleagues from the Association for Death Education (ADEC) and the International Work Group for Death, Dying and Bereavement (IWG) responded to my invitation to contribute to this book. They gracefully shared their breadth of knowledge, their international perspective, and experience in the chapters they wrote.

My four other children and grandchildren are always on my mind. They have learned that since I "failed retirement," my time is often taken up with projects like this book. Thank you for understanding.

—Phyllis Silverman

