Fermina Rojo-Pérez Gloria Fernández-Mayoralas *Editors* 

# Handbook of Active Ageing and Quality of Life

From Concepts to Applications



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Throughout our research career, we have been fortunate to be accompanied by academics and researchers specialising in ageing, active ageing and quality of life. We would like to dedicate this book to them.

First, we wish to mention Antonio Abellán García and Vicente Rodríguez-Rodríguez, the friends and colleagues with whom we co-founded the Research Group on Ageing (GIE-CSIC) in 1988 at the Institute of Economics, Geography and Demography, Spanish National Research Council (IEGD, CSIC). Additionally and as members of the Spanish Research Group on Quality of Life and Ageing, we also wish to dedicate a mention here to Pablo Martinez Martín, recently retired from the National Centre of Epidemiology, Carlos III Institute of Health (CNE, ISCIII). They have all performed immense scientific work in their respective fields, and we have shared knowledge, research time and fine professional moments with them, for which we feel grateful.

In the context of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS), we recall our first participation in the ISQOLS conferences. This was at the seventh such conference, held in July 2006 at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, and organised by Valerie Møller and Denis Huschka. It is a source of pride to be a part of this association, sharing our interest in quality of life studies with members from all parts of the world.

In a special way, we thank Valerie for dedicating her expertise to drafting the preface that crowns this book. Our profound thanks also to Graciela Tonon, editor of the Springer book series on International Handbooks of Quality-of-Life, for inviting and encouraging us to coordinate this edited book. Our utmost gratitude extends to all the authors of the different chapters of the book; they are responsible for its quality, thanks to their preparedness to selflessly transmit their knowledge. It is an honour for us, the editors, to collaborate in the dissemination of knowledge in the field of active ageing and quality of life. We hope to be able to contribute to improving the lives of the ageing population.

To all those older adults who think that we are writing about them: yes, we are writing both about you and for you.

—Fermina Rojo-Pérez and Gloria Fernández-Mayoralas I also dedicate this book to my parents, Vita (†) and María, who worked assiduously with love and by way of example to secure the education and well-being of their children from their humble rural origins. To José Manuel, with whom I share my life, and to my brothers and sisters, for their love, support and understanding of my work.

## —Fermina Rojo-Pérez

To my mother (Josefina (†)), who in spite of leaving us so soon, has been my role model for becoming the woman I wish to be. To my father (Ángel (†)), who spoke of me with pride. To Lorenzo, my partner of 40 years, with whom I can also discuss research and science. And to my child, Gloria, for whom I too aspire to serve as a role model.

—Gloria Fernández-Mayoralas

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