When John Iceland, editor of the *Sociology in the Twenty-First Century* series, invited me to write a book about aging for this series, I enthusiastically agreed. The aging of the US and global populations is one of the most profound and consequential shifts in contemporary society, and I’m honored to have the opportunity share my passion for this topic with readers. My thanks to John for including me in this important series, and to Naomi Schneider, executive editor at University of California Press, for her guidance, encouragement, patience, and support as I completed this manuscript. The anonymous reviewers provided thoughtful and constructive feedback; their wise words have improved the manuscript. My gratitude also goes to Sara Bubenik for her assistance with the reference list, and Samyuktaa Jayakrishnan for ably preparing the book’s figures.

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