ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am sincerely thankful to many individuals for their guidance, support, contributions, and feedback that shaped this book.

I owe immense gratitude to Sina Safayi, without whom this book would not have been written. After advocating for international graduate students and postdocs for many years, Sina discussed the need for a specialized career development guidebook for international scientists with the editorial staff at UC Press. Sina trusted me to implement this vision and connected me with the press. Moreover, he gave me the idea to write this book when I needed it the most, a few months after suffering a great personal loss. Trying something completely new was exactly the challenge I needed at the time. I hope I met that challenge.

This book is for international scientists, by international scientists. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the many scientists who heeded my open call to share their insights, experiences, and advice. Beyond exemplifying the concepts outlined, their stories—of determination, courage, and vulnerability—are the real essence of this book. Special thanks to Adriana Bankston, who shared her expertise in science policy and coauthored chapter 13 on systemic reforms to improve scientific training and retain STEM talent in the United States.

While I embarked on this inaugural book-writing adventure with reckless abandon, it was the support of my professional community that gave me strength along the journey. Many thanks to colleagues who shared advice and experiences about the book publishing process. Thank you to peer reviewers, Amy Aines, Chris Smith, Derek Attig, and Natalie Chernets, whose thoughtful comments significantly improved the quality of the proposal and the manuscript. I also thank the editorial committee of UC Press for their generous support and encouragement, which further validated the importance of this topic.

I couldn't be more thankful for the patience, guidance, and consistent support of UC Press staff, particularly Chloe Layman, my acquisition editor whose affirmation and guidance was critical throughout my writing. I would also like to express appreciation to UC Press's First Generation program for uncovering the hidden curriculum of book publishing and walking first-time authors like me through the process in a timely manner.

This book is an ode to, and celebration of, people and communities. To my friends, family, mentors, coworkers, and professional community (particularly those in the Graduate Career Consortium) who cheered for me and encouraged me throughout this process, I am truly humbled. Thank you!

Cheers to coffee, Pink Floyd, and Queen, my faithful companions over the past two years.