

## Foreword to special section on family firms in Ibero-America

I am pleased to introduce to our academic audience this special section on family firms in Ibero-America. The addition of special issues or thematic sections within regular issues is a strategy that has a long tradition in Academia, with the aim of discovering good specialized articles to become reference work for academic research in management focused on Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

The policy on special issues has been strengthened during the last three-year period that Academia has been an Emerald journal, looking where possible at association with an international conference.

This special section on family firms is the first result of implementing the above mentioned policy that was initiated through the association with the *Family Enterprise Research Conference -2015*, held at the University of Vermont. We received more than 40 submissions and the five selected works published in this issue give an idea of the quality of those articles.

I want to thank Professor Pramodita Sharma, Chief Editor of the *Family Business Review*, who originally encouraged me to undertake a special issue and offered us FERC as a platform to launch this project. I also want to thank the guest editors Professors Maria José Parada, Alberto Gimeno from ESADE Business School, Barcelona and Claudio Müller from Universidad de Chile at Santiago, for their time and effort spent in the reviewing process and for the writing of the analytical introduction to this thematic section. This introduction provides the context and highlights what the contribution is of each article within the literature of family firms.

Finally, congratulations to all contributing authors.

**Carlos Pombo**