Preface

In its short history, biometrics has developed very fast and is now used to enrol entire populations. As Kevin Bowyer’s Foreword points out, the motivation of spoofing such systems is natural and must be expected. Under the leadership of Sébastien Marcel, the EU-funded seventh Framework Research Programme: Trusted Biometrics under Spoofing Attacks (TABULA RASA) was aimed to be the first concerted research program that addressed this issue. The TABULA RASA team was formed of an international set of researchers from Switzerland, Italy, Finland, France, UK, Spain, and China who addressed the main biometric modalities, many of which feature within the chapters that follow. The program included industrial partners and their demonstration and commercial material is less suited to inclusion with a text, though their contribution to the research program’s success was enormous.

The publisher now with the largest coverage of biometrics is Springer. Those attending any of the major conferences that includes biometrics will have met Wayne Wheeler and so our gratitude remains for his early enthusiasm of this project. Of late, Simon Rees has been very patient while we reach the final stages of the book. We regret that delay appears innate to edited texts, though this can lead to greater polish in the result.

As such, with many thanks to many people: the authors, the reviewers, and the technical staff, here you will find the first consolidated text that addresses biometric anti-spoofing. It has been a great pleasure to work with the TABULA RASA teams during the past 4 years; it has been a great pleasure to work in biometrics for this is a technology that will continue to mature as it offers the solutions to many of the problems faced by modern society. As researchers in the field we trust you find this text of use as guidance and as reference in a field which will continue to inspire and challenge its many researchers.

Switzerland, May 2014
Sébastien Marcel

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Handbook of Biometric Anti-Spoofing
Trusted Biometrics under Spoofing Attacks
Marcel, S.; Nixon, M.S.; Li, S.Z. (Eds.)
2014, XVII, 281 p. 95 illus., 50 illus. in color., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-4471-6523-1