Foreword

It is a great pleasure for the RBLA Editorial Committee to present this first RBLA international special issue, *Corpus studies: future directions*, which focuses on one of the cutting-edge research areas in contemporary linguistics: corpus linguistics and its applications, to the scientific community.

We heartily thank Prof. Stefan Th. Gries, from the University of California at Santa Barbara, for having generously accepted our invitation to be the guest-editor for this special issue which, as the readers will see shortly, reflects his future-oriented thinking for the area.

We are very thankful to our colleagues who submitted their contributions and applied themselves to formulate their insightful directions for the further growth of corpus linguistics. RBLA is honored to be able to offer the international community a special issue that gathers this level of excellence.

We hope our readers will embark in a very inspiring and motivating experience as they explore the pages ahead.

Heliana Mello