Special Issue on Sensing and Information and Communication Technologies toward Non-intrusive, Undisturbed, and Calm Healthcare Monitoring

I am pleased to invite you to submit your research papers for the special issue, "Sensing and Information and Communication Technologies toward Non-intrusive, Undisturbed, and Calm Healthcare Monitoring".

The importance of less-cumbersome physiological measurement technology is well recognized in the fields of medicine and welfare, including medical and nursing care, home healthcare, and conditioning in sports, as well as in automobile, home electronics, and robot industries. In particular, continuous personal health recording (PHR) can be a useful means for the early detection of signs and risk factors associated with various disorders and the effectiveness evaluation of treatment, therapy, and training to improve and maintain health conditions and physical activity.

From this viewpoint, a new concept called "calm healthcare technology" has recently been proposed, which uses physiological monitoring that fits in very well with daily life activities. To practically apply such a concept, non-intrusive monitoring based on non-invasive sensing techniques will be required, including ambulatory (using mobile, wearable, and implant devices), nonconscious (all the necessary sensors are built into existing home facilities), and other types of less-burdensome measurement systems. Moreover, the progress in information and communication technologies has made it possible to analyze enormous quantities of data in daily practical use.

With the above-mentioned points in mind, this special issue covers a wide range of areas related to the development of calm healthcare monitoring, such as those of sensors and materials for monitoring vital signs, innovative physiological monitoring systems, communication technology for achieving non-intrusive systems, data analysis of health condition, and their applications and effectiveness evaluations.

I expect that this special issue will contribute to the promotion of the development of physical and psychological healthcare systems and thus the extension of the life span of individuals in good health with a well-maintained quality of life.

Guest editor: Professor Kosuke Motoi (Shizuoka Institute of Science and Technology)

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