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Medical Robotics: Advances, Applications, and Challenges

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Message from the Guest Editors

Medical robots are becoming a fundamental part of health services. They can be designed for a number of different applications, of which we will quote just a few, not willing, however, to restrict the fields of papers to be presented.

Fundamental robots are those designed to be surgical tools to make the work of a surgeon safer and easier, but robotized equipment designed to perform particular exams of a patient, also being able to provide, as an output, a full description of the problems evidenced, is also important. Other important applications are related to rehabilitation tools that enable therapies aimed at recovering physical and cognitive functionals, as well as to assistive technologies that are required to support patients in performing daily activities. The usage of medical robots is also becoming more relevant due to the possibility to limit contact and improve sterilization in hospital scenarios, which have been proven to be even more critical aspects during COVID-19.

In any event, these robots are using all available technology or even inventing new technology; A.I. is also beginning to enter the field, with the aim of helping both doctors and patients.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal Applied Sciences has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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