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The Present and Future of Robotic Technology in Rehabilitation

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Message from the Guest Editors

The number of people with disabilities and the complexity of their needs continue to rise, despite the improvements in technology and health care. This increase is directly related to the rapid aging of the world population and the consequent burden of aging-associated diseases. Neurological disorders result in lifelong functional disabilities, with a severe impact on patients' ability to perform activities of daily living and, therefore, on their independence. Similarly, musculoskeletal disorders represent one of the main causes of severe long-term pain and physical disability, increasing markedly with age and occurring especially when workers overexert themselves and perform repetitive tasks.

Rehabilitation robotics is a fast-growing discipline that has received significant attention over time because of an increasing acceptance of the validity of this approach by clinical care providers.

This Special Issue aims to report on the most innovative and interesting research in the field of rehabilitation robotics, with applications to people with disabilities due to neurological disorders, musculoskeletal pathologies, or the natural course of aging.

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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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