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## FOREWORD

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### Special Section on Information Communication Technology for Highly Reliable Human Health Care Services

More than ten years have passed since coming into the twenty-first century, so in a sense, Information Communication Technology (ICT) for general purposes such as conversations and communications among men and computers has been matured. Now it is the time when ICT should boldly spread into services and applications where it has never been successfully applied. One of such services and applications is the field of human health care and medicine where the components of systems need to be optimized according to their specialized purposes. The purposes have a wide range of spectrum; they include provision of health care/wellness and disease management, but there is a common base in them, that is, improvement of Quality of Life (QOL) for individuals. The optimized systems should be jointly supported by sensor, communications and information technologies, and from the communications technology point of view, how to achieve highly reliable information transmission in the systems is a key issue.

This special section is on all aspects related to ICT for human health care and medicine. The Call for Papers attracted 9 papers and 9 letters in total. After careful and fair review process, 2 papers and 5 letters have been finally selected by the editorial committee, and in addition, 2 invited papers from researchers on development and application of cutting-edge medical ICT have been able to be included in the special section. As a result, it covers a wide range of medical ICT, such as development of implantable devices, networking and scheduling for in-house health care, design of physical/medium access control layers suited for implant/wearable Body Area Networks (BANs), efficient use of ICT for medical and health care purposes and so on.

We, the editorial committee members, hope that you enjoy the collection of papers on cutting edge ICT for human health care and medicine. As editor-in-chief, I would like to thank all the authors for their providing high-quality papers and all the editorial committee members and reviewers for their investing significant time to bring the special section success.

Special Section Editorial Committee Members

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Shinsuke Hara, Guest Editor-in-Chief

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**Shinsuke Hara** (*Member*) received the B. Eng., M. Eng. and Ph. D. degrees from Osaka University, Osaka, Japan, in 1985, 1987 and 1990, respectively. Since 2005, he has been a professor at the graduate school of engineering, Osaka City University, Osaka, Japan. He was Chairman of IEICE Technical Group on Wideband Systems (2008–2009). Now, he is Chairman of IEICE Technical Group on Medical ICT (2010–2011) and a vice Chairman of IEICE Technical Group on Robust, Reliable Radio Control (2010–2011).

