
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Murako Saito is Representative of Health Care Technology Management Research Center in Tokyo, and is Research Adviser in Institute of Future Healthcare Policy in Waseda University. She had been Professor in School of Science and Engineering, Waseda University, and also had been Professor in School of Medicine, University of Ryukyu. She had been a Fulbright Scholarship Grantee authorised by US Department after graduation from University of Tokyo where she received PhD Degree of Health Sciences. Her major research interests are redesigning and transformation of workplace into innovative organisations for empowering the participants by providing reflective cognition-action coupling processes in work organisation.

In developing healthcare technology for sustaining people's healthy and secure lives, we need to pay attention to holistic or whole systems of human life by exchanging research outcomes and ideas emerged through the reflection in studying among the researchers with different backgrounds, experiences and the ways of working, from bio-psycho-social aspects as well as biomedical aspect in improving and spreading healthcare engineering and technology in order to make technology suitable for people's convenience which normally fluctuates all the time in everyday life and in fact, unpredictable.

I am pleased to have an opportunity given by the Chief Editor of *International Journal of Biomedical Engineering and Technology* to introduce some papers prepared in industries, institute and university in Japan. The first and second papers deal with information processing in the brain, 'Effect of emotional changes induced by sounds on human frontal alpha-wave during verbal and non-verbal tasks' by Kawasaki et al. and 'Search time and correction ratio in visual search processing by visual angle and the stimuli presented' by Sasaki et al., and the third paper is on Comfortable massage chair by Ogawa, et al, which is one of best seller products in Japan. The fourth is on Bio-psycho-social aspects of human adaptability which was analysed by considering interdependency among central and peripheral visual nervous systems and perceived health by Saito.

Users embraced by advanced technologies are not always happy to continue to watch and to operate the terminals of information systems, but often feel tiresome and uncomfortable which leads to irritating situation and sometimes leads to unsafe handling. These papers introduced in this issue are expected to convey to the readers to reconsider human being as a social creature who has bio-psycho-social aspect as well as biomedical aspect which must be considered when working in the environment under complex systems provided with advanced technology. I hope this collection of papers will serve to interest further research in this important area.