
Preface

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Biographical notes: Marco Ceccarelli is a Full Professor of Mechanics of Machinery and the Director of LARM: Laboratory of Robotics and Mechatronics at the University of Cassino and South Latium. He is a member of Robotics Commission of IFToMM, the International Federation for the Promotion of Machine and Mechanism Science. He has written the books *Fundamentals of Mechanics of Robotic Manipulation* in 2004 and *Mechanisms* in 2008. His research interests are in mechanics of mechanisms and robots. He is author/co-author of 500 papers, presented at conferences or published in journals, and he has edited 14 books for conference proceedings and specific topics.

Licheng Wu is a Full Professor and the Vice Dean of the School of Information Engineering, Minzu University of China, Beijing, China. He received his Bachelor's degree from Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (BUAA), Beijing in 1995, and his PhD in Robotics from the Institute of Robotics of BUAA in 2000. In 2008, he was promoted as an Associate Professor of Tsinghua University. He moved to Minzu University of China in 2009. His research interest is in robotics, especially on modelling and control, dynamic analysis, mechanical design and AI on manipulator and robot. He has engaged with several projects on robot hand, space robot and insect robot.

MEDER 2012, IFToMM International Symposium on Mechanism Design for Robotics has been the second event of a series that has been started in 2010 as a specific conference activity on mechanisms for robots. The first event was held at Universidad Panamericana de Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico in September 2010.

The aim of the MEDER Symposium is to bring together researchers, industry professionals and students from the broad ranges of disciplines dealing with mechanism for robots, in an intimate, collegial and stimulating environment. Again, the 2012 MEDER event received an increase in attention, since the CD Proceedings contain contributions by authors from all around the world.

The CD Proceedings of MEDER 2012 Symposium contains 38 papers, that have been selected after review for oral presentation. These papers cover several aspects of the wide field of mechanism design for robots, from theoretical studies up to practical applications through new robot designs and prototypes.

This special journal issue has been obtained as a result of a second review process and selection, but all the papers that have been accepted for MEDER 2012 were all of good quality with interesting contents suitable for re-writing for journal publication and it has been hard to decide for the selection.

We would like to express grateful thanks to the members of the International Scientific Committee for MEDER Symposium for cooperating enthusiastically for the success of the MEDER 2012 event and this special issue:

- Marco Ceccarelli, Chair (University of Cassino, Italy)
- Juan Carretero (University of New Brunswick, Canada)
- Lu Zhen (Beihang University, China)
- Pierre Larochelle (Florida Institute of Technology, USA)
- Ding Xilun (Beihang University, China)
- Grigore Gogu (French Institute of Advanced Mechanics, France)
- I-Ming Chen (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
- Mario Acevedo (Universidad Panamericana, Mexico)
- Teresa Zielinska (Warsaw University of Technology, Poland)
- Joseph Rooney (Open University, UK)
- Atsuo Takanishi (Waseda University, Japan)
- Alfonso Hernandez (University of the Basque Country, Spain).

We thank the authors who have contributed with very interesting papers in several subjects, covering many fields of mechanism design for robotics and additionally for their cooperation in revising papers in short time in agreement with reviewers' comments. We are grateful to the reviewers for the time and efforts they spent in evaluating the papers with a very tight schedule that has permitted the publication of this special issue.

We thank the Beihang University of Beijing for having hosted the MEDER 2012 event. We would like to thank our colleagues for their help in the symposium organisation at the LARM Laboratory of Robotics and Mechatronics of University of Cassino and at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the Beihang University of Beijing.

We like also to thank the auspices of IFToMM (International Federation for the Promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science).

We will like to thank the publisher Inderscience Publishers and Editorial staff of this journal and particularly Professor Dan Zhang, Editor-in-Chief, for accepting and helping the publication of this special issue, since the early steps in 2011.

We are grateful to our families since without their patience and comprehension it would not have been possible for us to organise MEDER 2012, IFToMM International Symposium on Mechanism Design for Robotics and this journal special issue.