From the Editor-in-Chief

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Dear Colleagues,

By now, the Spring Semester or Quarter is over. Time flies. One more Academic Year comes to an end. A lot was done, and much more to be done is ahead of us.

In this issue, I would like to register a few words with respect to what is going on in *robotics*. When I think about *robotics*, how it started, how it has evolved and what the status of *robotics* is today, only one word comes to mind: extraordinary!

If we just look around, we will all see that a day does not pass where we do not read an article about *robotics* and *robotic applications*, or we do not see 'something' about *robotics* on TV. *Robotics* is here to stay. What was unthinkable 15 years ago is becoming more and more part of everyday life, in some countries like Japan more so than in the U.S. for the time being.

Service robotics, healthcare robotics, medical robotics, robotics for the elderly, is nothing but four of the so many domains robotics may be used. And we are just in the beginning. We will witness developments and applications that a few years ago belonged to Science Fiction. The best is yet to come.

Amidst such rapid changes, we will continue to serve our readership by publishing the best work, aiming for the top and at being one of the best journals in the field.

Enjoy the issue.

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