Editorial

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On this happy occasion of the successful launch of the special issue on Artificial Empathy, we are pleased to open a new chapter of International Journal of Social Robotics for the year of 2015.

At the beginning, we do like to share some good news to you owing to our collaborative efforts in the community of social robotics. In April 2014, we received a notification from Thomson Reuters that International Journal of Social Robotics (IJSR) has been selected for coverage in Thomson Reuter's products and services. Beginning with V.1 (1) 2009, the publications of our journal will be indexed and abstracted in Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch), Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition and Current Contents/Engineering Computing and Technology. This means in practical terms, our journal will have the first Impact Factor (IF) this year, and the works by our authors will be duly recognized by the scientific community. The journal has now established herself itself as the flagship platform which brings diverse research communities across humanity, science, engineering and art together to work on something of higher aspiration, demand, and impact. To stay in close touch with the latest news related to the journal, you

are cordially invited to join us on the International Network on Social Robotics group in LinkedIn or download the recent IJSR free app for iOS and Android.

In October 2014, we have successfully organized International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR) in the beautiful city of Sydney, Australia, thanks to the leadership of General Chair, Mary-Anne Williams, Program Chairs, Michael Beetz and Benjamin Johnston. The theme of the 2014 conference was "Social Intelligence", and focused on the interaction between humans and robots and the integration of robots into our society. The highlights of the conferences were with keynote speech by four distinguished researchers.

Anthony G Cohn from University of Leeds presented a plenary talk on "Educating LUCIE—learning about every day activities from a robot perspective". He addressed the research work focused on learning the spatio-temporal structure of tasks and events from sensor data.

Peter Gärdenfors from University of Lund shared with us his most recent work on "Mind-reading robots" and discussing techniques that can be used to construct mind-reading robots.

Guy Hoffman from Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya delivered his work on "Designing Robots for Fluent Interaction: Movement, Fluency, and Nonverbal Behavior". His speech focused on both appearance and behavioral requirements for fluently and intuitively human–robot interaction design.

Oussama Khatib from Stanford University, who happens to be our co-Editor, presented his most recent research and developments on "Working with the New Robots". Besides the discussion of development of safe, easy to use, and competent robotic systems, the presentation included live hands-on illustrative instance of human–robot interactions in various robotic applications.

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We are happy to announce that the next ICSR will be held in the beautiful city of Paris under the leadership of Adriana Tapus.

Again, we would like to thank the guest editors of this special issue, Luisa Damiano, University of Bergamo, Paul Dumouchel, Ritsumeikan University, and Hagen Lehman, University of Hertfordshire. Congratulate and warmly welcome professor Damiano, she will join the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Social Robotics as an Associate Editor. She will bring to our interdisciplinary editorial board with her expertise in artificial empathy and cognitive/developmental robotics.

After years of joint effort and collaboration of the social robotics community, the journal has presented a wide range of

research contribution in social robotics, human–robot interaction, perception and understanding and suitable engineering and scientific solutions for specific problems in these areas. Social robotics is becoming the buzzword in robotics, and the journal is developing rapidly all the way as we have planned initially. Our sincerest gratitude will go to our editors, reviewers and publisher for their invaluable support and help, without whom the journal will never become as it is today. The editorial board will keep doing our utmost to bring the journal to another higher level and we are also looking forward to our fellow researcher's contributions of publishing more high-quality social robotics researches in our journal.