# Preface

*Home-based health and wellness measurement and monitoring*

Juan Carlos Augusto [a] and Hamid Aghajan [b]

[a] *School of Computing and Mathematics and Computer Science Research Institute, University of Ulster, UK*
[b] *AIR (Ambient Intelligence Research) Lab, Department of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University, USA*

## 1. This thematic issue

Health and wellness are undoubtedly application areas for Ambient Intelligence technologies with a significant interest across different research disciplines. This continuing interest is a natural evolution of the technology in the area of medicine and social sciences previously referred to with terms like telecare and telemedicine. Such systems allowed some degree of detachment of a person from hospitals and a level of automation in monitoring of vital signs, and paved the way to more ambitious concepts like Ambient Assisted Living.[1] The new generation of systems under research aim at a wider range of services and the use of more complex hardware and software infrastructure.

Despite all the intensive work around the world the level of technical complexity of the systems being developed and the level of responsibility these systems carry with regards to the humans they care for are so challenging that not surprisingly they are still not considered mature enough for massive adoption. Most of the systems developed so far were created in labs or if they are in the public sector they provide a much narrower and safer range of services than what the community as a whole is aiming for.

This Thematic Issue on *Home-based Health and Wellness Measurement and Monitoring* is therefore very timely and we hope it will inspire and guide our community to further developments in this area.

This issue has been managed by our Guest Editors John O'Donoghue, Reiner Wichert and Monica Divitini, to whom we are very grateful for their professional work. Its content has been influenced by papers which have been presented in a preliminary form at Pervasive Health 2011, held in Dublin, but there are also papers which were attracted through an open call disseminated worldwide.

Supplementing the technical material, we also include the index of reviewers for this Thematic Issue and summaries of graduations at the level of PhD.

## 2. Upcoming issues

Following our tradition of alternating Thematic Issues with Regular Issues the November issue will be a regular one and the one to be published in January will be a Thematic Issue focused on *Context Awareness*.

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[1] See www.bcs.org/content/conWebDoc/46623 for a short introduction and www.iospress.nl/book/handbook-of-ambient-assisted-living/ for a more technical presentation of the field.