Editorial

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With the new year 2022, we are pleased to open the 14th volume of SORO. Last year, the journal was filled with new developments.

For over a decade, Sam Ge has been a force in leading the Journal as an Editor-in-Chief. His efforts were vital in launching SORO and his dedication enabled the journal to thrive throughout this period of growth. While transitioning from his role of an Editor-Chief, Sam will continue to contribute to SORO as Founding Editor-in-Chief.

We are delighted to welcome Serena Ivaldi, who joined the Journal as an Editor-in-Chief in March 2021. We are pleased to have Serena with us, and we are looking forward to the continuation of this exciting endeavor with her onboard.

SORO is growing stronger, and we were very pleased to see that the journal's impact factor for the year 2020 reached a measure of 5.126. This ranks SORO as the top impact-factor journal for social robotics and shows the value the journal is bringing to the community.

The Editors-in-Chief of SORO, Serena Ivaldi, Agnieszka Wykowska and Oussama Khatib, would like to express their sincere gratitude to all the members of the International Advisory Board, the Associate Editors, the Editors at Springer, the Editorial Assistants, the contributing Authors, and the Reviewers for their continuous support, advice, and efforts in support of the Journal. In the new year, the editorial board aims to maintain the journal's high standards, to provide feedback to authors in the shortest and most efficient manner, and to continue the effort aimed at bringing together the social robotics community.

The 13th edition of the International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR) was organized in a hybrid format. The physical presence component was in Singapore on the 10th of November 2021, followed by the virtual part from the 11th to the 13th. The conference was a great success thanks to the fabulous local organization of Haizhou Li and Sam Shuzhi Ge, Yan Wu and their local team of Jiang Rui (Local Arrangement Chair) and Tinaying Wang (Local Arrangement Co-Chair), and Kaiqi Yang, Guiju Ping, Haitao Yang, and Jiali Li (Secretariat).

The conference could not have taken place without the joint efforts of the Program Chairs: Yan Wu, Agnieszka Wykowska, Hongsheng He; Finance and Sponsorship Chair: Lei Wang; Award Chairs: Britta Wrede, Emily Cross, Tetsuo Ono, Yong Liu; Invited Session Chairs: Marcelo Ang, Pey Yuen Tao; Workshop Chairs: Keng Peng Tee, Maartje de Graaf, Mariacarla Staffa; Panel Chair: Yong Liu; Competition Chair: Amit Kumar Pandey, Ruud Hortensius; Publications Chairs; Dongyu Li, Jairo-Perez Osorio; Xiaorui Liu; Publicity Chairs: Alessandra Sciutti, Han Wang, Xiaonan Wang; Virtual Conference Arrangement Chairs: Siqi Cai, Thommy Eriksson; the International Advisory Committee; the Standing Committee the Senior Programme Committee, all editors and reviewers. Under the special theme "*Robotics in our Everyday Lives,*" the conference attracted a great number of passionate social robotics researchers, and it was overflowing in inspiring and exciting talks, and engaging workshops. We look forward to the next edition of ICSR!

For the current issue of SORO, we are pleased to introduce a collection of nineteen papers presenting a wide range of current topics in social robotics, covering topics from educational domains to robots for emotional support. We thank the authors for their inspiring contributions, and eagerly anticipate the year ahead as we continue to help focus attention on exciting developments in social robotics.

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