

Minimally-invasive Endoscopy and Applied Robotics: a new journal

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For a while now, we have been highly surprised by the fact that capsule endoscopy (and relevant minimally-invasive endoscopic techniques and technologies) did not have its own *home* journal, despite the fact that this technology is probably (and hopefully) poised to become the mainstream endoscopic modality in the near future. Indeed, over the last few years, we have witnessed an exponential growth of publications on minimally-invasive endoscopy and applied robotics. Moreover, considerable research in this field allows us to look to the future with optimism and promise that soon we will be able to realise our dream, *i.e.* to finally leave behind the discomfort of the gastrointestinal examination.

Therefore, together with the Editorial Board Members and the Publisher, we announce with immense pleasure the official launch of the *Minimally-invasive Endoscopy & Applied Robotics (MiEAR)* journal and call for submissions.

Minimally-invasive Endoscopy & Applied Robotics is an Open Access, online-only, peer-reviewed journal focusing on the publication of original manuscripts, cases series/reports, authoritative reviews and/or opinion papers in the field of minimally-invasive digestive endoscopy and applied medical robotics. Minimally-invasive platforms and devices such as smart flexible endoscopes and capsule/probe-based endoscopy have, since the dawn of the Millennium, changed the approach to diagnosis and therapy/treatment delivery and introduced the concept of minimal discomfort in the examination of the gastrointestinal district. Moreover, robotics applied to minimal-

ly-invasive digestive endoscopy demonstrated to introduce significant benefits through the integration of innovative smart locomotion mechanisms, localization methodologies and sensing for closed-loop active control and enhanced diagnosis and therapy.

Minimally-invasive Endoscopy & Applied Robotics intends to primarily publish papers with particular emphasis on clinical and technological research in gastroenterology and endoscopy, *e.g.* medical cases series/reports, development of novel robotic medical devices and implementation of assistive algorithms. Main topics of the journal include:

- i) capsule endoscopy and novel flexible devices, clinical and experimental, developing applications and projects, case series and case reports (image-based or full case reports);
- ii) other clinical applications of minimally invasive endoscopy, such as transnasal upper GI endoscopy, magnetic active locomotion capsule, etc.;
- iii) drug-delivery systems and therapies, experimental and/or clinical applications;
- iv) robotic locomotion technologies and localization methodologies for active endoscopic capsule and novel flexible endoscopes;
- v) mesoscale mechanisms and solutions for enhanced diagnosis, such as image processing, and therapy delivery;
- vi) physical simulation, magnetic modelling and magnetic-based strategies, sensing, telemetry and data communication;
- vii) motion planning and autonomous/assisted diagnosis and therapy;
- viii) power supply and innovative solutions for endoluminal robots.

The Members of the Editorial Board are worldwide-known experts in this field; they have a staggering cumulative experience in both clinical practice and engineering technology for both standard and robotic-assisted/driven endoscopy. Indeed, what we attempt to achieve in this Editorial Board is a well-structured balance between clinicians and roboticians. Moreover, the journal is supported by two

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of the most well-known experts in the field of medical and robotic endoscopy: the Honorary Editors Dr. Martin Keuchel and Prof. Paolo Dario.

The journal is published by PAGEPress Publication, Pavia, Italy, an Open-Access publisher selected among others for its documented dedication, hard work and timely communication: *it has been a source of inspiration for us and led this effort into fruition*. Open Access journals are an ideal platform for the publication of research papers, since they reach the widest available audience of professionals in the field. *It means that published articles will be available for free access online, being immediately citable*. They also shorten the time needed before publication, offer a high quality peer-review system, highly-professional scientific copyediting, DOI assignment, and submission to many online directories and databases.

In conclusion, on behalf of Editorial Board Members and PAGEPress Publisher, we welcome you to enjoy the forthcoming issue of *MiEAR* and strongly encourage you to submit your paper via the online submission system.

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