

Special Issue on
Design, Technology, and Engineering for Long-Term Care

CALL FOR PAPERS

The number of older adults is increasing rapidly, and this demographic shift puts an increase level of stress onto worldwide healthcare systems. Despite the fact that the vast majority of older adults wish to age-in-place, many make use of long-term care services, including home care, rehabilitation services, and social support. A significant number of people spend their final stages of life in an aged-care facility or nursing home. According to an international definition, nursing homes provide an alternative place of residence with 24-hour care and assistance offered by professionals to people who can no longer reside in their own home environment due to increasing need for assistance with activities of daily living, complex healthcare needs, and vulnerability. Nursing homes have a dual nature: as a care institution and as a place to live. With advances in technology, the domain of engineering and design offers a wide range of solutions that support daily functioning, activities, and participation, facilitates the provision of healthcare, and offers means for leisure in such aged-care facilities. Too often, end-users of architectural and technological solutions are not consulted in the design processes and the implementation of the solutions in practice. Their inclusion in these processes is paramount to the success of engineering and design.

The purpose of this special issue is to publish high-quality research papers as well as review articles addressing recent advances in the design of and the technologies used in aged-care facilities; physical care, rehabilitation, and dementia care are inclusive of the scope of this special issue. It shall focus on issues of building infrastructure and how they relate to technology advances, as well as the implementation of care technologies for long-term care. The special issue particularly aims at research papers on user-centred design strategies that involve the 'least-voiced' in our societies. Original, high quality contributions that are not yet published or that are not currently under review by other journals or peer-reviewed conferences are welcomed.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Architectural theory and construction
- ▶ Home modifications
- ▶ Smart home technologies
- ▶ Sensor-based networks
- ▶ eHealth interventions for long-term care
- ▶ Rehabilitation technologies and orthotics
- ▶ Assistive devices
- ▶ Serious games and leisure in aged-care

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/jhe/dtea/>.

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First Round of Reviews

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