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Human–Robot Collaboration and Its Applications

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Message from the Guest Editors

The automation of manufacturing is moving toward mass production and customization through human–robot collaboration (HRC), a new trend in the field of industrial and service robotics as part of the Industry 4.0 strategy. The main objective of this innovative strategy is to create an environment of safe collaboration between humans and robots.

Robots help humans with non-ergonomic, repetitive, uncomfortable or even dangerous operations with high precision and repeatability. Humans can quickly identify hazards and apply them in decision making thanks to their intelligence and flexibility. The integration of human and robot characteristics can build an efficient collaborative system to bring an enormous improvement in flexibility.

This Special Issue aims to publish high-quality papers and disseminate the latest research achievements, findings, and ideas in the field of human–robot collaboration. The recommended topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Human–robot collaboration and interaction for industrial applications;
- Collaborative and cooperative robots;
- Digital manufacturing systems and applications areas.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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