Special Issue

Advances in Flexible Electronics toward Wearable Sensing

Message from the Guest Editor

Wearable sensing has a strong role to play in digitizing healthcare and connecting home and hospital care from the early stages of prevention through to disease management and aftercare, including rehabilitation. Furthermore, such technologies may also monitor the wearer's environment and monitor pollution or other hazards in the surroundings. Flexible electronics enable the design of wearable sensors that truly conform to the body and may take the form of epidermal patches or smart textiles. This is essential to optimize signal acquisition and ensures reliable sampling methods in the case of chemical sensing. To support sensing elements, power requirements need to be considered and also integrated in a flexible form, necessitating flexible batteries and energy harvesting methods. Data management is also required for the sensed information and may require the integration of flexible antennae for wireless communications. The scope includes new materials and manufacturing methods, sensors, actuators, haptics, data communication, power supply, energy harvesting and storage, integration and interconnections, microfluidics, biocompatibility, and sustainable design.

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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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