Preface

After 13 very successful conferences held annually in Europe, Asia, and North America—ICOST was inaugurated in France (2003), and was subsequently hosted in Singapore (2004), Canada (2005), Northern Ireland (2006), Japan (2007), USA (2008), France (2009), Korea (2010), Canada (2011), Italy (2012), Singapore (2013), USA (2014) and Switzerland (2015)—the 14th International Conference on Smart Homes and Health Telematics (ICOST 2016) was hosted for the first time in China by Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST).

ICOST provides a premier venue for the presentation and exchange of research in the design, development, deployment, and evaluation of smart environments, assistive technologies, robotics and health telematics systems. ICOST brings together stakeholders from clinical, academic, and industrial perspectives along with end users and family caregivers to explore how to utilize technologies to foster independent living and offer an enhanced quality of life. ICOST 2016 invited participants from around the world to present and discuss their experience in the design, development, deployment, and evaluation of assistive and telehealth systems, as well as ethical, professional practice, and governmental policy issues. The conference featured a dynamic program incorporating a range of technical, clinical, and industrial keynote speakers, oral and poster presentations, along with demonstrations and technical exhibits.

The theme of the conference this year was "Inclusive Smart Cities and Digital Health" focusing on the quality of life of dependent people not only in their homes, but also in outdoor living environments, with the aim of improving mobility and social interaction in the city. Extending the living space with suitable ICT support in term of smart transportation, mobility, interaction, and socialization is the scientific challenge and promising innovation that ICOST community decided to tackle. ICTs are not limited only to end-users with special needs, but also to providers, caregivers and family members in charge of taking care of dependent and elderly people. To be more effective and impactful, technologies in different areas, such as Internet of Things (IoT), big data analytics, smart mobility etc., should target all the stakeholders.

ICOST 2016 and the organizing team and host in the famous city of Wuhan were proud to extend their hospitality to the participants from the international community from major universities and research centers as well as representatives of industry and users from more than 20 countries. This year we selected 38 full papers out of 83 submissions following a double-blind review, which were presented during the conference as oral presentations and regular posters sessions. A demonstration session was also planned so that academic and industry representatives could share their prototypes and future devices with the participants.

We were very pleased to host several world-renowned keynote speakers from the USA and France. We were extremely honored for the confidence of the sponsors and

particularly the active support of the French Embassy in China and Renault, the industrial Gold Sponsor, who accepted to contribute actively to ICOST 2016.

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Carl K. Chang
Lorenzo Chiari
Yu Cao
Hai Jin
Mounir Mokhtari
Hamdi Aloulou

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