It is a great pleasure and honor to invite you to participate in the 10th International Biophilia Rehabilitation Conference (10th IBRC), which will be held in Chieti, Italy, on October 15, 2013. I, Toshiyuki Tanaka, of the Faculty of Science and Technology at Keio University will chair this conference. The 10th IBRC will be held in collaboration with Keio University, a long-established private university, which was founded by Yukichi Fukuzawa in Japan in 1858. Today, Keio University is held in high regard in Japan. The University’s involvement in the Conference highlights the importance of holding conference.

My research field is pattern measurement, an aspect of medical image analysis. In recent years, in many hospitals, the number of patients who are older has been increasing. To provide diagnosis support with the help of imaging, many devices using advanced techniques such as fMRI, fNIRS, and X-ray CT have been developed, and the precision of diagnosis has risen markedly. However, despite these advancements, we believe that the burden on doctors has not decreased owing to an increase in the number of patients. To reduce the burden on doctors, we feel that a diagnosis support system that uses image analysis is essential. To achieve this end, we will encourage studies on medical image processing.

In the field of the rehabilitation, the number of older patients is increasing. The current system is limited in that each patient requires the attention of a physical therapist going forward, there is a need to set up a new rehabilitation system where a physical therapist can respond simultaneously to patients. In addition, rehabilitation systems where patients are encouraged to perform self-rehabilitation at home, thereby reducing the number of trips to the hospital, are needed. This need is pressing because in the future, medical expenses that need to be borne by the individual are expected to increase. We believe that the following two items are necessary for this system: a device for providing rehabilitation effectively, and a diagnosis support system to help offer effective rehabilitation.

Through a workshop and research exchange, we hope that at the 10th IBRC, we will have the opportunity to introduce innovations in the field of the rehabilitation. We look forward to meeting you in Chieti.

Welcome to the 10th IBRC