Appreciation for partnership with Latvia

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Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to launch “Rehabilitation department of the Social Integration State Agency” in Riga, Latvia, on June 26, 2018, with International Biophilia Rehabilitation Academy (IBRA).

I am Toshiyuki Tanaka, chairperson of Biophilia Rehabilitation Academy in Japan. I am part of the Faculty of Science and Technology at Keio University, which is a long-established private institution founded in Japan in 1858 by Yukichi Fukuzawa. Keio University is well known to researchers worldwide for the students and professors who produce high-quality research. My research field is pattern measurement, including medical image processing and computer-aided diagnosis.

The number of patients has increased in many countries, in step with the aging of the population. Medical devices such as fMRI, fNIRS, and X-ray CT become widely used to support the work of doctors. Although the precision of diagnosis has risen markedly, it seems that the burdens on doctors have not lessened. To reduce these burdens, we are developing a diagnosis support system using medical image processing.

We have promoted the construction of a new rehabilitation system that one physical therapist treats several patients with easy devices, which was called “Takizawa method”.

The international Biophilia Rehabilitation Academy (IBRA), which is a sisterhood institute of BRA in Japan, has worldwide revolved the promotion of new rehabilitation system. In consequence, IBRA has achieved the harmonious relationship with Poland, Italy, Romania, and so on.

In the last year, we have held the Workshop Biophilia 2017 in Riga, Latvia. And we made a statement about our approach for rehabilitation and the necessity of randomized control test (RCT). I am very glad that IBRA has a partnership with team of Latvia from this year, and will perform RCT with the team of Latvia. Through the RCT of our proposed system, we hope that the meeting of this year will provide the opportunity to introduce important innovations and blossom in the field of the rehabilitation in Latvia and Japan.

Thank you!