

## Guest Editorial

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# Special Section: Health Economics

This special economic section aims to start an initiative to include a series of economic papers in the journal. It was discussed during the conference on telemedicine, Medetel, in Luxembourg in 2012. This is part of a working group's activity also initiated in 2012 on economics of ehealth. It is timely, under the Irish presidency of the European Union in 2013, especially with the discussion on the Horizon 2020 programme for innovation and research and the roadmap with the US, initiated in the field of ehealth, with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Boston in October 2012.

The three selected papers presented in this issue provide an international perspective on economics of e health:

Dr. R Dimitrova's paper presents the Strategic Programme 2020 of the European Commission and how the ehealth programme can enable it.

The Japanese contribution from Professors Akematsu, Morita and Tsuji present scientific results on long term effects of telecare and demonstrates that users of telecare can substantially reduce medical expenditures, in the range of 64,944 JPY and 4.2 days of care over the period 2002–2010; which also confirms their first results on the period 2002–2006.

Professor Huttin and Dr Liebman's paper demonstrates the needs to ensure the success of telemedicine with reliable and safe data analytics technologies such as adaptive platforms. In particular, all countries need to generate and integrate new generations of epidemiological, genetic, biological and clinical data to raise evidence suitable to diversities of local populations and their pedigrees for genetic variability.

*Guest Editor*

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