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Editorial

Special issue: IE in healthcare



Healthcare systems management complexity is growing due to population ageing in the occidental world. Therefore, demand for improvements in quality and efficiency is opening the road for Industrial Engineers (IE) to get involved in what may be the most important performance improvement challenge project of the twenty first century. Lean thinking and lean manufacturing tools are making their way to make healthcare systems more performant.

The growing need for system integration, optimisation and efficiency improvement opens many research opportunities for IEs. The magnitude of the performance challenges posed by the complexity of modern healthcare systems requires the establishment of integrated solutions from the IE, who sees his role evolving from a supporting actor to an interdisciplinary system integration expert and a service design specialist. The contribution of IEs to healthcare systems is now perceived as one of the most promising avenues for the safeguarding and quality improvement in healthcare services worldwide.

This special issue dedicated to *IE in healthcare* reflects the diversity of subjects handled by IEs. Topics addressed include heuristic methods for healthcare systems optimization and design; improvement and re-engineering of design process; impact of new transportation design system; simulation and risk analysis were used, among other subjects.

The guest-editorial committee would like to express their appreciation to all authors who submitted and shared their knowledge on the subject with the IE community, and to all referees for the tremendous effort they generously expended to uphold the standards of the Journal.

Guest Editor

François Gauthier

Département de génie industriel, École d'ingénierie,
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières,
C.P. 500 Trois-Rivières, poste 3959,
Québec G9A 5H7, Canada
Tel.: +1 (819) 376 5011

E-mail address: Francois.Gauthier@uqtr.ca

Co-Guest Editor

Georges Abdul-Nour

Co-Guest Editor

Denis Lagacé

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