Editorial

I am honored to welcome you to the fifth volume of Annual Review of CyberTherapy and Telemedicine. This year’s theme, “Transforming Healthcare Through Technology,” acknowledges the significant impact that technology has had and will have on modern healthcare. The theme also highlights the importance of the CyberTherapy conference and others like it. CyberTherapy acts as a meeting place for many in the field, a place where we share our triumphs, exchange ideas, and work together to shape the future of behavioral healthcare. Together, we can use technology to help those in need, improving existing protocols and disseminating care to a wider segment of the population.

Much has changed over the past twelve years since the inception of the conference. An exciting body of research regarding the utilization of advanced technologies in behavioral healthcare has emerged over the last decade, revealing the continuous advances and discoveries made by over 450 investigators to help patients with both mental and physical disorders. I am proud to report that as VR’s use in Behavioral Healthcare has grown, so has the CyberTherapy Conference. For the first seven years, CyberTherapy was a specialized symposium at the Medicine Meets Virtual Reality (MMVR) Conference featuring presentations that dealt primarily with conceptual matters and future possibilities. Over the years, the symposium continued to grow in both size and scientific evidence. In 2003, the symposium spun off into a separate three-day conference. The 11th Annual CyberTherapy Conference, held in Canada in June 2006, highlighted the largest program ever presented on controlled clinical trials of VR and other cutting-edge technologies in the areas of mental health, rehabilitation, disabilities, training, and education. It involved representatives from 22 countries, reflecting its truly international character.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all who have helped make this year’s volume a reality. First, my gratitude goes to Dr. Stephane Bouchard and Geneviève Robillard from the Cyberpsychology Lab of the University of Quebec in Outaouais for going beyond the call of duty to help collect and coordinate reviews of this year’s volume. I would also like to thank this year’s Editorial Assistant, Ruth Kogen, MFA who worked to edit and produce this volume. I am also indebted to all of the peer reviewers who worked tirelessly to ensure the scientific rigor of the papers in this volume: Nathan Appel, PhD, Stephane Bouchard, PhD, Tony Brooks, PhD, Connie Dresser, RDPH, LN, RM, Furio Gramatica, PhD, Andrea Gaggioli, PhD, Kay Howell, MBA, Robert S. Kennedy, Ph.D., CPE, Evelyne Klinger, PhD, Fabrizia Mantovani, PhD, Sarah Miyahira, PhD, Thomas D. Parsons, PhD, Giuseppe Riva, PhD, Albert Rizzo, PhD, Jaime Sanchez, PhD, Melba Stetz, PhD, Ioannis Tamaranas, PhD, Tamar Weiss, PhD, and Christine Youngblut, PhD.

I sincerely hope that you will find this year’s volume to be an interesting and intellectually stimulating read. I continue to believe that together we can change the future of healthcare.

Sincerely,

Brenda K. Wiederhold, Ph.D., MBA, BCIA
Editor-in-Chief