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## **PREFACE**

CLAWAR 2016 is the nineteenth edition of International Conference series on Climbing and Walking Robots and the Support Technologies for Mobile Machines. The conference is organized by CLAWAR Association in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London, King's College London, London South Bank University and University of Sheffield within the premises of Queen Mary University of London, UK during 12 – 14 September.2016.

CLAWAR 2016 brings new developments and associated new research findings in cooperative service robotics technologies in context of assistance and services at personal and organisational levels in various environments. These include service robotics and multi-robotic systems for use in domestic, public and industrial sectors, where emerging control and coordination paradigms are reported; assistive robotics to support the aging and disabled population towards ambient assisted living, with development of wearable exoskeleton and soft robotic systems or prosthetic limbs; and the broader impact such developments will have in the society, due to associated ethical issues, as robots will be cooperating and interacting in close proximity with humans.

The CLAWAR 2016 conference includes a total of 100 articles, including four plenary lectures, from 29 countries. This number has been arrived at following rigorous review of initial submissions, where each paper initially submitted has received on average three reviews.

The editors would like to thank members of the International Scientific Committee and National Organising Committee for their efforts in reviewing the submitted articles, and the authors in addressing the comments and suggestions of the reviewers in their final submissions. It is believed that the CLAWAR 2016 proceedings will be a valuable source of reference for research and development in the rapidly growing area of mobile service robotics.

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