Editorial

Discovering and Creating the Leading Edge of Extended Reality and Spatial Computing: A Message From the Editor-in-Chief

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Abstract

We are pleased to introduce *JMIR XR and Spatial Computing*, a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to advancing the integration of extended reality and spatial computing technologies into routine clinical care.

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KEYWORDS

editorial; extended reality; XR; spatial computing

We are excited to announce the launch of *JMIR XR and Spatial Computing*, a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to showcasing research on extended reality (XR) and spatial computing technologies and their integration into everyday clinical practice.

In navigating the frontier of XR and spatial computing for more than a decade, we have adopted a stance of informed optimism tempered by vigilant caution. Based on the large number of high-quality articles published by JMIR Publications and others ovv

The tangible impact of these developments in health care is evident. For instance, Bandelow et al [7], who authored the German guideline for treating anxiety disorders, recommend virtual reality exposure therapy as a viable alternative when in vivo exposure is not feasible for patients with spider, height, or flight phobias. Furthermore, the US Food and Drug Administration has reviewed and authorized the marketing of a growing number of devices with augmented reality and virtual reality through 510(k) clearance, De Novo requests, or premarket approval in many fields of medicine [8].

These examples illustrate the growing acceptance of immersive technologies in clinical practice as “another arrow in the quiver” of health care.

However, our optimism is tempered with pragmatism. Although XR and spatial computing offer promising avenues for enhancing health care delivery, we recognize that they are not universal solutions. The successful integration of these technologies into existing health care systems and workflows requires thoughtful consideration and careful implementation [8]. Their true effectiveness will be determined by the appropriateness of their application, the specific contexts in which they are deployed, a significantly positive cost-benefit ratio, and most importantly, their demonstrable ability to improve patient outcomes or enhance health care efficiency [8,9]. As we move forward, it is crucial to approach the adoption of these technologies with a balanced perspective, ensuring that their integration complements and enhances, rather than disrupts, the foundational aspects of quality health care delivery.

Therefore, we encourage authors from both academia and industry to view *JMIR XR and Spatial Computing* as a platform for showcasing their collaborative efforts, sharing insights, and contributing to the responsible advancement of immersive technologies in health care.

Our journal recognizes the critical importance of addressing the accessibility and equity challenges surrounding XR

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