It has been a pleasure to participate in Healthcom2009, the 11th IEEE International Conference on e-Health Networking, Applications and Services, held in Sydney, Australia, from 16 to 18 of December. This venue has attracted highly qualified researchers who presented their work in a series of workshops. The authors of the best communications have been invited to produce extended papers that are now published in this special edition.

The Healthcom2009, in the tradition of its former editions, continues to bring together e-Health experts from around the world in a forum that promotes both the sharing of scientific knowledge and the networking of researchers, clinicians, policy makers, educators, industry representatives and so many others. Together to discuss new perspectives and projects and return with ideas and contacts which will contribute to the continuing development of e-Health.

The scientific papers included in this special issue cover a wide range of e-Health topics, including the challenges relating to privacy issues in the scope of public health surveillance, with the focus on a literature review relating to frameworks to model privacy in e-Health; the challenge of modeling of interactions between co-incidental clinical processes, through providing a practitioner accessible means for semantics annotations; IT based home care services for the elderly users, which correspond to the rapidly developing area of AAL (Ambient Assisted Living); the evaluation of e-Health applications and systems from a pragmatic perspective; e-learning environments for health care in the perspective of Web 2.0; and the semantic web and ontologies based engines to enable searches by attributes in electronic health records.

It was my privilege to accept to co-chair the workshops in Healthcom2009 and write this editorial, after the kind invitation of Prof. Pradeep Ray, director of the Asia-Pacific ubiquitous Healthcare research Centre (APuHC) from the University of New South Wales, whom through his work as the Chair of the Advisory Committee of this conference and one of the workshops co-Chairs has largely contributed to the organization of this event. Here I express my sincere gratitude to him. I would also like to thank Prof. Joel Rodrigues, Editor-in-Chief of this journal and my other workshops co-Chair, for his continuous support during the whole process of putting together this publication.

J. Artur Serrano
Guest Editor
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