Welcome to the second issue of Advanced Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing. This issue explores pervasive computing applications and what can be learnt from them. With each issue I have also tried to include a book review. In this issue Professor Julian Newman reviews the edited volume entitled “Ubiquitous and Pervasive Knowledge and Learning Management: Semantics, Social Networking and New Media to Their Full Potential”. He identifies the highlights of the volume for your recommended reading list.

This issue has two distinct parts. The first two articles are original articles submitted to the Advanced Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing. The third, fourth and fifth articles are a selection from the recently published in an edited book entitled ‘RFID & Smart Technologies for Information Convergence’ edited by myself and two colleagues. Firstly, I will introduce the original articles and then I will introduce the articles that have been expanded on from the original book chapters.

In the first article, Magnus Andersson from Viktoria Institute & Rikard Lindgren from the University of Gothenburg introduce the topic of context data in ubiquitous computing environments in their paper entitled \textit{Inscribing Interpretive Flexibility Of Context Data In Ubiquitous Computing Environments: An Action Research Study Of Vertical Standard Development}. The case study application is within the transport industry in Sweden and this is a fascinating example because there is such a mixture of in-vehicle sensor systems, communication systems and stationery transport planning systems. What is learnt from the case study is applied to the five design requirements developed as crucial to the interpretation of contextual data interpretation.

In the second article, Eusebio Scornavacca and Federico Herrera of Victoria University of Wellington investigate the use of mobile technology services among a very mobile workforce, real estate agents. The authors use a case study and apply the mobile enterprise model to try to understand current usage patterns. This research was done when the housing market was reaching a peak in New Zealand and therefore at a time when this particular workforce might have been forced to work smarter in order to keep up with market demand. Still, interestingly, the authors found that the overwhelming benefit of the mobile voice services were to allow agents to be ‘reachable’ at ‘anytime’. However, most of their other office practices followed a more traditional process.

In the third article, Lena Mamykina and Elizabeth Mynatt of the Georgia Institute of Technology investigate interpreting health and wellness information. The idea from this paper stems from the concept of home-based care where patients are encouraged to monitor their own condition and arrange their day accord-
ingly. There are many smart devices that allow patients to take their own vital statistics in real time and on a daily basis. But also a genuine need to ensure that patients can accurately interpret the information that they have without the need for intervention of a health care professional or for complex instructions. Mamykina & Mynatt investigate a number of interfaces that are able to summarise such complex information and portray its meaning through rich pictures. This is indeed a fascinating paper and a sample of ongoing work at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

In the fourth article, Filippo Gandino, Erwing Ricardo Sanchez, Bartolomeo Montrucchio, Maurizio Rebaudengo from the Dipartimento di Automatica e Informatica in Italy investigate the benefits and challenges of using RFID in the agri-food supply chain. Social understanding of the need for traceability and accountability in global food supply chains is increasing, particularly with the recent infant milk powder problems originating in China. However, the issues around appropriate standards and compliance are difficult ones and because the application is related to standards compliance rather than competitive advantage and high return on investment. The favoured solutions are the ones that will cost less. The authors of this paper look for a number of examples in managing fruit and live fish to try to recommend a framework for communicating the current barriers and benefits for using RFID for agri-food traceability information systems.

In the final article John Garofalakis of the University of Patras & Christos Mettouris of the Research Academic Computer Technology Institute Patras extend their Bluetooth positioning system for use in supermarket real-time customer relationship management systems. This article reports on a very ‘low-tech’ application to locate mobile phone users using Bluetooth functionality to invite users to participate in a service based on proximity to a Bluetooth server. Another neat thing about this application is that it is based on ‘opt-in’ user participation and therefore respects the privacy rights of the customers.