Foreword

It is my great pleasure and honor to be invited to contribute a foreword to the book titled *Improving the Quality of Life for Dementia Patients through Progressive Detection, Treatment, and Care*, written and edited by Mr. Qiong Wu and Prof. Jinglong Wu of Okayama University, Japan.

In recent years, the life of the human beings is getting longer in many countries and regions, owing to the progress of scientific knowledge and clinical technologies in health care and medical treatment. It is, as a matter of course, a big benefit for the human beings. However, it brings about a big threat to the human society, that is, a rapid increase of unhealthy aged population. Especially, increase of the dementia patients is quite remarkable as indicated in Chapter 1: Alzheimer’s disease is a typical neurodegenerative disease that affects more than 30% of the population older than 85. In addition, the number of dementia patients in younger generations is also increasing. These indicates the fact that more than a billion people are suffering from dementia! Then, there exist urgent needs to realize effective means for early detection, treatment and also care of dementia patients.

A wide variety of the topics included is one of the remarkable feature of the book. There are included physiological and psychological methods of detecting/caring dementia, various methods of giving physical/physiological and psychological stimuli for treating/caring dementia patients, and also a method of designing environmental landscape design, etc. A big variety of the authors is another feature of the book. Authors have been invited from Japan, China, Turkey, Canada and Greece.

Thus, the book gives, without any doubt, an excellent reference both to the basic researchers and clinical practitioners in the field.

In order to overcome the increasing difficulties brought about by dementia, it is essentially needed to develop the following ways:

1. Further progress of scientific research on the physiological mechanism, especially from the viewpoint of neural mechanism.
2. Clarification of process of cognitive defects from the viewpoint of psychology and behavioral science.
4. Organizing an international federation of scientists and practitioners to activate worldwide exchange and cooperation.
5. Constructing financial support system by the central and the local governments to make the advanced medical and technological means enjoyable to all the people.

Yoshikazu Nishikawa
Kyoto University, Japan & Osaka Institute of Technology, Japan