

## Technological Progress, a Gate to a New Era: the 4<sup>th</sup> Space

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**Specify Technical Area:  Biomedical  Energy**

In the last decades, the technological development has been including new capacities and applications in medicine. Consider, for example, the progress in minimally invasive surgery and the new diagnosis techniques.

This contribution of technology to the biomedicine area is due to the work and research of the non-health professionals (engineers, physicist, etc.), and their approaches for resolving biomedical challenges from their technical point of view and respecting the clinical constraints.

In addition, today, information is increasingly accessible, patients consult the internet and can know all medical advances with a click in their computer. They easily accept all new health techniques that arise and assume their responsibility for caring their own health. Also, in the occidental countries, life expectancy is growing due to the reasons suggested above; the improvement of the medical procedures and the feed. Then, we are in an scenario where the now aged less than 18 years old are going to reach more than 100 years old, and consequently, our occidental society should review our professional retirement model, in order to preserve our health system and its sustainability.

We call the 4th-space to the slot of time where people now aged less than 18 years old, will reach more than 100 years old. Then, we have to teach to this people to manage their lifetime, their health, their economy, etc. They are going to be health services users for a long time, and the retirement should be re-planned for the sustainability of the health service.

This people will need to change their activities during the life, not only the physical activity but also their culture of use of the health system. They will be familiarized to have automatic aided devices in the houses, not just in the hospital.