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## From the Editor

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Innovation in medical technology has made a major contribution to the advance of healthcare. Nevertheless, in order to control the ongoing rise in medical costs in developed economies, we are now entering a new era in which there is a need to combine the maximization of healthcare outcomes with cost reduction. Meanwhile, there is also a need to overcome challenges such as infectious disease that face emerging economies in ways that are compatible with the state of the local infrastructure and economic circumstances. As they become increasingly diverse, finding the best responses to individual healthcare problems is emerging as an important global challenge.

Hitachi has been contributing to the advance of healthcare ever since it first began supplying diagnostic imaging systems using technologies such as X-rays and ultrasound around 1950. In the 2000s, Hitachi's activities expanded into such fields as particle beam therapy systems and the use of information technology (IT) in disease prevention. Through its work with a wide range of stakeholders, including hospitals and local government, Hitachi is using technology to respond to the diverse challenges facing the healthcare sector in partnership with customers. In April 2014, Hitachi consolidated its healthcare businesses into a new Healthcare Group, making it the seventh of its business groups.

This issue of *Hitachi Review* presents examples of what Hitachi is doing to respond to the various challenges described above through its global ambitions for healthcare innovation (Global One Healthcare), which combine care cycle innovation (bringing innovation to the care cycle through collaborative creation with customers and advanced technology) with medical innovation that draws on the comprehensive capabilities of Hitachi with its extensive experience in IT and social infrastructure.

In this issue's Expert Insights, Dr. Makoto Suematsu, President of the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, which has taken on a central role in medical research and development and establishing the environment for such work, contributes an article expressing his expectations for healthcare innovation. In Technotalk, Dr. Gary L. Gottlieb, a past CEO of Partners HealthCare who has an ongoing leadership role in healthcare innovation around the world through his current position as CEO of Partners In Health, describes work on innovation in the USA and emerging economies as well as expectations of Hitachi in a discussion with Masaya Watanabe, Vice President and Executive Officer of Hitachi, Ltd. (President & CEO of the Healthcare Group and Healthcare Company).

Other articles present examples of care cycle innovation in which devices such as diagnostic ultrasound systems and open magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) systems are deployed in applications ranging from diagnostic testing to treatment, examples of medical innovations that use techniques such as IT and simulation to respond to diverse needs around the world for things like hospital management and health insurance measures, and the advanced core technologies that underpin these innovations.

I hope that this issue of *Hitachi Review* will provide you with a better understanding of Hitachi's healthcare activities, and that the products and services we have to offer will also play a role in achieving better healthcare.

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