

## Editorial

It is a great honour to take over as Editor-in-Chief of *Cement and Concrete Research*, with many thanks to Della Roy who has nurtured the journal to its current position as the leading primary journal for research relating to cement and concrete.

It is also a challenge, because the journal must continue to improve if it is to retain its number one position. My major preoccupations are: to reduce the time from submission to publication of articles; and continue to improve the quality of the articles published.

The first step has been the introduction of Elsevier Editorial System™ (EES) system at the end of 2004 (see <http://ees.elsevier.com/cemcon>). EES allows authors to submit papers electronically and to track the progress of their papers in the review process. Reviewers will be able to access their “work in progress” via the web and can work on either electronic or paper copies according to their preferences. The editorial office has an overview of the number of articles under review and their state of progress, this will enable us to avoid overloading some reviewers while others are waiting (eagerly) to review articles, and in the event that someone is unable or unwilling to review an article, then we can re-allocate the review quickly and effectively. Most of this process will be handled by the new managing editor Keith Baldie.

Unfortunately all of the benefits of EES will not be immediate. The notoriety of *Cement and Concrete Research* means that there are several hundred articles “in the

pipeline” which must be reviewed and published (or rejected) using the traditional channels.

Where EES is a revolutionary change to the review process, the changes envisaged for improving the quality of the articles are more evolutionary. As I have already stated, there are hundreds of articles under review for publication in *Cement and Concrete Research*, and the journal is the most cited in its field. However, many articles are submitted which are outside of the scope of the journal—we have therefore redrafted the Aims and Scope to make it clear to authors and reviewers the type of article which we will accept. We will also be appointing several associate editors in the next few months who will help oversee the review process.

I must finish by thanking the outgoing Editor-in-Chief and her Editorial Office team, especially the outgoing managing editor, Kathy Maurant. *Cement and Concrete Research* was already the leading journal in the field when I began my research 25 years ago and it has maintained that position over the ensuing years. Della’s achievements are unrivalled and it is therefore a great personal comfort to know that she will maintain her link with *Cement and Concrete Research* in her position as Founding Editor.

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