



Editorial

This is the 40th year of Cement and Concrete Research and I am very happy to report that we continue to receive top quality submissions on a wide range of topics. The number of submissions we receive continues to far outstrip the space available, so we have to be very demanding in the review process – the acceptance rate for the last year¹ was only 30%. While this is tough for authors, and reviewers, it does mean that our impact factor has risen again (to 1.5).

As a reflection of this quality, I think it is interesting to look at the most cited articles for 2008 (it is to look at 2009 articles) where the top twelve articles were as follows (with number of citations in brackets):

'The calcium silicate hydrates', Richardson, I.G. (16)
'Refinements to colloid model of C–S–H in cement: CM-II', Jennings, H.M. (14)

'Thermodynamic modelling of the effect of temperature on the hydration and porosity of Portland cement', Lothenbach, B., Matschei, T., Möschner, G., Glasser, F.P. (9)

'Interactions between shrinkage reducing admixtures (SRA) and cement paste's pore solution', Rajabipour, F., Sant, G., Weiss, J. (7)

'The microstructure of dispersed and non-dispersed fresh cement pastes – New insight by cryo-microscopy', Zingg, A., Holzer, L., Kaech, A., Winnefeld, F., Pakusch, J., Becker, S., Gauckler, L. (6)

'Engineering the bonding scheme in C–S–H: The ionic-covalent framework', Pellenq, R.J.-M., Lequeux, N., van Damme, H. (6)

'Sustainable development and climate change initiatives', Damtoft, J.S., Lukasik, J., Herfort, D., Sorrentino, D., Gartner, E.M. (6)

'Fresh self compacting concrete, a shear thickening material', Feys, D., Verhoeven, R., De Schutter, G. (5)

'Influence of limestone on the hydration of Portland cements', Lothenbach, B., Le Saout, G., Gallucci, E., Scrivener, K. (5)

'Effect of calcium silicate sources on geopolymerisation', Yip, C.K., Lukey, G.C., Provis, J.L., van Deventer, J.S.J. (5)

'Surface roughness criteria for cement paste nanoindentation', Miller, M., Bobko, C., Vandamme, M., Ulm, F.-J. (5)

'Durability of concrete – Degradation phenomena involving detrimental chemical reactions', Glasser, F.P., Marchand, J., Samson, E. (5)

I find this list very reassuring. Firstly because the number of citations is impressive, and secondly because the topics of these papers cover both the 'foundations' of Cement and Concrete Research – cement chemistry, microstructural development, degradation mechanisms – and also demonstrate the diversity of important subjects which are being studied – rheology, geopolymers, advanced characterisation techniques, etc.

Towards the end of the year we are planning a 40th birthday issue with invited reviews across a range of subjects central to Cement and Concrete Science.

1. New Editorial Board

We have made some extensive changes to our group of Associate Editors and Editorial Board members. It might help to explain the reasons for these changes if I describe these roles.

Our Associate Editors help me to organise an efficient review process, generally with a responsibility for a particular area of expertise. They are responsible for the invitation of suitable reviewers and assessment of the papers based upon the reviewers' comments. We expect that an Associate Editor will be responsible for 15–20 papers per year. Editorial Board membership is partly recognition of the efforts of the members to review articles; partly a commitment to continue this effort; and partly the provision of *ad hoc* help for me and the Associate Editors when, for example, there is a need for arbitration between conflicting opinions, or a rapid review is required due to a reviewers failure to fulfil their responsibilities.

It is clear that both of these roles involve a significant amount of work, and one of the reasons for the changes which we have made is to ensure that editorial duties do not become excessive. The second reason is to encourage new people to become involved with the editing of the journal: without a policy for rotating our Associate Editors and Editorial Board members, there is simply no space for new faces.

As a final word on this subject, I would like to express my gratitude to those people who are standing down as Associate Editors and Editorial Board members: without the work and expertise which they have all given to the journal, it certainly wouldn't be as strong as it is.

2. Review of papers

I attended a meeting of Elsevier editors (from across the spectrum of scientific disciplines) this summer and there was one subject which preoccupied everyone there – how to keep the review process working effectively when the number of submissions is rising, and the amount of time available for voluntary activities, such as reviewing, is being squeezed. There was an interesting discussion about the preoccupation which most organisations have with metrics (publication numbers, citations, impact factors, etc.), which isn't matched by any recognition for one of the critical elements in the peer review process, the reviewer.

In the case of Cement and Concrete Research this problem became clear this summer when the number of submissions in 'the system' reached an all time high. I appreciate that this resulted in some very long review times, and understand that this is incredibly frustrating,

¹ Calculation based upon the period October 2008–October 2009.

so we put a lot of pressure on our reviewers, who thankfully have allowed us to get the number of submissions under review near to an optimum level.

In addition to the generic problems of increasing numbers of submissions and limited time for reviewing, which we cannot influence directly, I think there is one issue which is specific to researchers on cement and concrete, and it is something we can work on. We work in a field where traditionally things take a long time – 28 days is the basic unit of time! To try and reduce the review time, we have made some changes to the process.

- In the editorial office, we now have an objective of making our initial assessment and inviting reviewers within one week and similarly, once a submission has been reviewed, our objective is to get the decision to the author within a week.

- We have reduced deadlines for reviewers, 30 days for the first review and 21 days for second and subsequent reviews. These may seem very short, but our experience suggests that if a first review isn't done within a month, then it tends to take forever.
- We are now sending out reminders to reviewers on a regular basis: in the week before the review is due, and then on a regular basis once the deadline has passed. My apologies to those people who do not appreciate being reminded, but it is something which many reviewers have asked for.

Finally, a very big thank you to all of the people who have reviewed papers for us over the last year. I really appreciate the time and effort which you have given us, and I am very happy to recognise all of the people listed below as valuable contributors to Cement and Concrete Research.

Cement and Concrete Research reviewers (October 2008–October 2009):

Jürgen Adolphs	Denis Damidot	Duncan Herfort
Dimitrios Aggelis	Colin Davie	Colin Hills
Stephen Akers	Nele De Belie	Erika Holt
Antonio Aldykiewicz	Mario de Rooij	Takashi Horiguchi
Mark Alexander	Geert de Schutter	John Hughes
Loris Amathieu	Helene Debegnac	Stefan Hurlabaus
Carmen Andrade	Emmanuel Denarié	Jason Ideker
Ueli Angst	Sidney Diamond	Frank Jacobs
Yunus Ballim	Wisse Dridi	Stefan Jacobsen
P.F.G. Banfill	Cyrille Dunant	Robert Jansson
Rémi Barbarulo	Jan Elsen	Hamlin M. Jennings
Veronique Baroghel-Bouny	Bernhard Elsener	Ole Jensen
Benoît Bary	Gilles Escadeillas	Milan Jirásek
James Beaudoin	Nick Evans	Björn Johannesson
Philippe Benard	Charles Fentiman	Vagn Johansen
Mohsen Benhaha	Chiara (Clarissa) Ferraris	Annette Johnson
Arnon Bentur	Gregor Fischer	Marc Jolin
Dale Bentz	Robert Flatt	Maria Juenger
Ronald Berliner	Andrea Folli	Patrick Juilland
Urs Berner	Kevin Folliard	Siham Kamali-Bernard
Mario Berra	Mario Fontana	Christian Kaps
Alexandra Bertron	Benoit Fournier	Marta Kargol
Thomas Bier	David W. Fowler	B.L. Karihaloo
Peter Billberg	Thomas Fullmann	Tetsuya Katayama
Shashank Bishnoi	Richard Gagné	Michael Kersten
Christine Bläuer	Emmanuel Gallucci	James Kirkpatrick
Leon Black	Edward J. Garboczi	Vanessa Kocaba
John Bolander	Eric Garcia-Diaz	Eric Koehler
Luca Botalico	Ellis Gartner	E.A.B. Koenders
Paul Bowen	Eric Gaucher	Maria Konsta-Gdoutos
Wolfgang Brameshuber	Mette Geiker	Georg Kosakowski
Denys Breyse	Colin Giebson	Konstantin Kovler
Maarten Broekmans	Gareth Glass	Jörg Kropp
Harald Budelmann	Fred Glasser	Kimberly Kurtis
Nick Buenfeld	Friedlinde Goetz-Neunhoffer	Catherine Landesman
David Bulteel	Christophe Gosselin	Peter Laugesen
Bruno Capra	Zachary Grasley	Patrick Le Bescop
Celine Cau Dit Coumes	Patrick Grattan-Bellew	Gwenn Le Saout
Bogdan Cazaciu	Christian Grosse	Andreas Leemann
Aude Chabrelie	Amor Guidoum	Andraz Legat
Theodore Chappex	Emmanuel Guillon	Eberhard Lehmann
Robin Charlwood	Joost Gulikers	Valérie L'Hostis
Thierry Chaussadent	Claus-Jochen Haecker	Kefei Li
Thierry Chotard	Christopher Hall	Barbara Lothenbach
Miguel Angel Climent	Tor Hammer	Karen Luke
Cedric Comparet	Carolyn Hansson	Pietro Lura
Georgios Constantinides	Detlef Heinz	Kenneth MacKenzie
Olivier Coussy	Rosemarie Helmerich	Donald E. Macphee

Jon Makar
 Mario Mariscotti
 Fernando Martirena
 Nicolas Marty
 Nicos Martys
 Theodoros Matikas
 Thomas Matschei
 Viktor Mechtcherine
 Hans Meussen
 Bernhard Middendorf
 Sidney Mindess
 Luc Nicoleau
 Lars Olof Nilsson
 Michelle Nokken
 André Nonat
 Jan Olek
 Claudia Ostertag
 Angel Palomo (Sanchez)
 Vesa Penttala
 Bertil Persson
 Gilles Pijaudier-Cabot
 Alexander Pisch
 Johann Plank
 Herbert Pöllmann
 John Provis
 Phil Purnell
 Alexandra Quennoz
 Aleksandra Radlinska
 Venkataswamy Ramakrishnan
 Terrence Ramlochan
 Michael Raupach
 Hans-Wolf Reinhardt
 Ian Richardson
 Kyle Riding

David Rinaldi
 Olga Rio
 Chris Rogers
 Pierre Rossi
 Nicolas Roussel
 Eric Samson
 Julien Sanahuja
 Florence Sanchez
 Jay Sanjayan
 Gaurav Sant
 Manu Santhanam
 Anton Schindler
 Erik Schlangen
 Ulrich Schneider
 Jean-Francois Seignol
 John Sharp
 Medhat Shehata
 Caijun Shi
 Johan Silfwerbrand
 Denise Silva
 Ian Sims
 N.B. Singh
 Jorgen Skibsted
 Vit Smilauer
 Ken Snyder
 Mohammed Sonebi
 Danielle Sorrentino
 François Sorrentino
 David Stokes
 Leslie Struble
 Kolluru Subramaniam
 Lawrence Sutter
 Franc Svegl
 Luping Tang

Pipat Termkhajornkit
 Mickael Thiery
 Jeffrey Thomas
 Michael Thomas
 Jan Tits
 Romildo Tolêdo Filho
 Charles Toulemonde
 Fabrice Toussaint
 Bruno Touzo
 Pavel Trtik
 Stamatis Tsimas
 Franz-Josef Ulm
 Gian Lorenzo Valenti
 John Valenza
 Henri Van Damme
 H.A. van de Sloom
 Lucie Vandewalle
 Øystein Vennesland
 Siliva Viera
 Marco Viviani
 Lars Wadsö
 Günther Walenta
 Walter Wassing
 Jason Weiss
 Erich Wieland
 Frank Winnefeld
 Folker Wittmann
 Hong Seong Wong
 Kazuo Yamada
 Osamu Yamaguchi
 Guang Ye
 Robert Zimmerman
 Bruno Zuber
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