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Editorial

It is a great pleasure to write a guest editorial for this special issue of Cement and Concrete Research which includes the keynote presentations for the 13th International Conference on the Chemistry of Cement (13 ICCC). It provides me with an opportunity to give my thanks to the editors and publishers of Cement and Concrete Research for its cooperation in preparing this special issue, which recognises the importance of the 13 ICCC a major event in the scientific calendar of the cement related community and a unique opportunity to enhance modern society's awareness of the importance of understanding and further developing cementitious materials.

As readers will see immediately, the articles in this special issue of CCR have been authored by a select group of scientists renowned in the area of the chemistry of cement. There are, naturally, many others who could have been invited and who would have indisputably contributed excellent papers to this volume (my most sincere apologies if anyone has felt excluded), but for obvious reasons of space and 13th ICCC organisational constraints, the number of authors had to be limited.

In this editorial I would like to pay tribute to the many people whose selfless contribution has made this special issue of CCR and, more generally, the 13th ICCC in Madrid possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every author for the effort made to meet the publication deadlines so that

this issue of CCR could be in the hands of all participants on the opening day of the congress. This apparently simple achievement has called for a good deal of energy that readers will surely be able to appreciate in just measure. But above all, the authors of these papers merit our gratitude for their excellent work, and willingness to partner with scientists to write joint papers, their patience. Indeed, the authors of these papers have placed in our hands (in any reader's hands) a great amount of new knowledge on the chemistry of cement. The texts reflect the authors' diversity and experience, summarising the science existing prior to this publication, identifying the knowledge gaps, and charting the course that leads to the future.

I can only hope that the readers of these pages will find the information they contain useful at least as much as I have.

Angel Palomo
Chairman 13th ICCC, Madrid, Spain
E-mail address: palomo@ietcc.csic.es