Dear Readers

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By the time you read this, it will be December, and the Autumn colors I am looking at right now will have faded. It has been a good year for our journal, but now it is time to reflect on what we can do to further improve it.

One issue that Christian Wolkersdorfer, our Managing Editor and graphics guru, is wrestling with is how to improve the journal's cover. We want to change the photo—yes, that is a photograph of a partially flooded underground mine, and not just a random design. Do any of you have mine water photos that you think would work better? Should we ask authors to provide photogenic figures with their papers to appear on the front cover of that issue and thus change the front cover four times a year, as some journals do, or would you prefer more stability, perhaps changing the image every year or two? Or perhaps we should go with a more graphic design approach, such as an image mosaic with your images? Please, send Christian

your thoughts and images; what doesn't get used on our front cover will appear on our web site: www.IMWA.info.

With respect to content, a few of you have volunteered to organize theme-oriented special issues. Ideally, by this time next year, you will see special issues on mine water research in New Zealand, the potential effects of climate change on mine water management (and vice versa), and a special issue based on the best papers from the 2013 IMWA conference in Golden, Colorado (which, by the way, was a great meeting! Please, take some time to peruse the conference proceedings. You can download it for free at our web site).

From conversations at that meeting, I know that quite a few of you would like to see more mine water hydrology (and fewer geochemistry) papers published in our journal. In our defense, please know that we get a lot more geochemistry papers submitted; if you would like to see that balance reconciled, please encourage your peers and co-workers to prepare and submit the type of papers that you would like to see our journal publish. One of our members has agreed to follow through on that advice and has started to organize a special issue about a specific mine water hydrology case study that he was involved with. You may well ask, how are we going to publish all of these special issues and still deal with our continued growth in the number of papers submitted? I'm pleased to announce that Springer has already given us permission to once again increase the average number of pages published in each issue, at no extra cost to IMWA!

In the last issue, and at Golden, I announced that this journal's International Editorial Board selected "Characterisation Leaching Tests and Associated Geochemical Speciation Modelling to Assess Long Term Release Behaviour from Extractive Wastes," by Hans Albert van der Sloot and Andre van Zomeren as *Mine Water and the*

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Environment's best paper of 2012. As promised, here is a picture of the winners with their award (below, left). Meanwhile, our Editorial Board has undoubtedly been thinking about which paper published in 2013 should get next year's award; if you have a strong preference and wish to lobby for it, or just wish to thank our Editorial Board for their work, their names and e-mail addresses are listed on the inside front cover of this issue.

Also, as in the past, two students (above, right) were recognized for the quality of their presentations at Golden. Bronwyn P. Camden-Smith of South Africa received first prize, €1500 and a year's membership in IMWA, for her paper, "Investigating the Potential Impact of Efflorescent Mineral Crusts on Water Quality: Complementing Analytical Techniques with Geochemical Modeling." Second prize, €500 and a year's membership in IMWA, went to Ashley Jones of Great Britain for his paper, "Controls on Zinc Uptake from Circumneutral Mine Drainage in Freshwater Biofilms." Our warmest congratulations go to these researchers!

Next, I wish to thank Alex Waterhouse, who is stepping down as an associate editor after having served our journal well for the past several years, and three other individuals, Győző Jordán, Benoît Plante, and Kendra Zamzow, who all responded to my request for volunteers in our June issue, and have already started serving as new associate editors. I think it is fantastic that our growth in membership and journal content continues to be dealt with by an ever-growing team of highly skilled associate editors. Without them, I would have been overwhelmed a long time ago.

Finally, on behalf of the entire editorial team, our best wishes to all of you for a festive holiday season and a great 2014!

Regards,

Bob Kleinmann

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Editor-in-Chief