Preface

As this Special Issue of *Acta Mechanica Sinica* appears in print, it is a pleasure to witness at the same time that the 23rd International Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (ICTAM2012) is being held in Beijing, from August 19th to 24th, 2012. A large professional body consisting of more than 20 000 members from around the globe, the Chinese Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (CSTAM) is proud to be the host of the ICTAM2012 as well as the sponsor of the *Acta Mechanica Sinica*.

The Journal *Acta Mechanica Sinica* covers all disciplines in the field of theoretical and applied mechanics. It explores the frontiers of mechanics using analytical, computational and experimental tools. The Journal also encourages research in interdisciplinary subjects, and serves as a bridge between mechanics and other branches of engineering and sciences. Each issue of the Journal consists of four regular sections: (1) *review articles*, (2) *rapid communications*,

(3) *full length papers*, and (4) *discussions*. In this Special Issue, a wide range of papers, aimed at reporting the most recent development in the field, are presented to the research community. Together, they address a number of well-established and emerging topical areas, advance the state-of-the-art, and offer directions for future research.

The Journal is committed to publishing papers with similar breadth, depth and impact. We extend a warm welcome to you all for attending the ICTAM2012 in Beijing, and encourage you to submit your future work to *Acta Mechanica Sinica*.

Quan-Shui Zheng, Wei Shyy, Zhi-Gang Suo
Editors-in-Chief, *Acta Mechanica Sinica*

Q.-S. Zheng

Department of Engineering Mechanics,
Tsinghua University, 100084 Beijing, China

W. Shyy

Department of Mechanical Engineering,
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology,
Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China
& University of Michigan, USA

Z. G. Suo

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences,
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA