Preface

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In this special issue of *Biogeochemistry*, we present a cross-section of the presentations from the Third International Conference on Mechanisms of Organic Matter Stabilization and Destabilization in Soils and Sediments (SOM3), and an Introduction describing conference highlights and perspectives. The conference Chair, Jan Skjemstad, deserves high praise for organizing a successful conference, as does the host committee: Ron Smernik, Jeff Baldock, Evelyn Krull, and Kris Broos. Thanks also go to the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organization

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