Editorial

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With this sixth issue the Journal closes year 2011, which celebrates the 45th anniversary of *Meccanica*. The first 2011 issue was a Special Issue on Parallel Manipulators, a very up-to-date topic, and the sixth one contains a paper by Prof. Piero Vilaggio on 60 years of Mechanics of Solids, which gives an overview and an assessment of a well established but yet highly evolving area.

Springer, our publisher, celebrated the event by allowing everybody open access to the Special Issue.

Meccanica was originally established in 1966 as the official journal of AIMETA (the Italian Association of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics). It was initially intended as a national based journal but it soon gained an international reputation and in 1990 it became an International Journal distributed by Kluwer Academic Publishers. In its 45 years of life the journal has been the recipient of important papers reflecting the development of Mechanics in its broadest sense among the international scientific community.

This year is also the last one of the eight years I have spent as Editor of this Journal, after succeeding Prof. Giuseppe Rega in 2004. Great changes have occurred in this period. The paper submission moved from ordinary mail (2003) to e-mail (2004) and finally, in 2008, to the Editorial Manager (EM) system.

The number of submissions grew from about 70 papers per year in 2003 to approximately 300 per year in 2010. The impact factor increased from 0.237 in 2003 to 1.056 in 2010.

However, these are just numbers. What is really important is both the interest of qualified scientists to select our Journal as the recipient of their work and the scientific quality of the published papers. In my understanding, thanks to the efforts and the expertise of our reviewers *Meccanica* has maintained and even further developed both of them.

I cannot help thanking Dr. Nathalie Jacobs, Springer Editorial Manager, and her staff, who continuously supported our job, providing facilities, highly professional technical support and important suggestions whenever we needed them. For instance, the introduction of the EM system in 2008 led to a dramatic improvement to both the paper submission system and the overall handling of the paper review process.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Editorial Office Assistants for their extremely important contribution. Namely, I thank Prof. Alessandro Rivola, who undertook a huge task in organizing the handling process during the first two years before the introduction of the EM system, and Dr. Nicola Sancisi and Dr. Marco Cocconcetti who made most of the job possible by their devotion and timeless efforts; they gave the Editor superb support.

We leave the Journal to the newly appointed Editor, Prof. Alberto Carpinteri, an internationally renowned scientist. We wish him and Springer every success.

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