Editorial

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In the early 1980s, I had a dream: an international high level journal devoted to “original research work on the physical and chemical aspects of transport of extensive quantities such as fluid mass, mass of components and energy, in multiphase, possibly deformable, porous medium domains, as encountered in a variety of scientific and engineering disciplines” (quoted from the original TIPM objectives). Already in my 1972 book, I expressed my view that transport in porous media has matured to become a discipline on its own, rather than a chapter in a variety of disciplines. It is a scientific field that serves as the theoretical foundation to practical applications in many engineering fields. As a discipline, with a growing number of researchers and practitioners, it needed its own society (and conferences) and its own journal. In 1967, I started and headed a Section on Flow through Porous Media within the framework of IAHR. In 1969, I held at the Technion in Haifa (perhaps) the first conference on the Fundamentals of Transport Phenomena in Porous Media. In 1986, I initiated the establishment of TIPM (by the D. Reidel Publishing Company), and undertook the role of Editor. Over the years, especially as a member of the SPRINGER family of journals, TIPM has developed and, I believe, has become an esteemed high level journal serving all those who work in the exciting field of transport in porous media. At first it served mainly hydro-geologists, reservoir engineers, and chemical engineers, but gradually it attracted a growing group of researchers and practitioners who focused on phenomena that occur in porous medium domains and their applications. In establishing this journal, one of my goals has thus been achieved. In 2008, INTERPORE, an International Society for Porous Media, was established. It is a very active scientific-professional society that promotes interaction among all those engaged in porous medium research and practice. I am glad that a strong relationship has been established between TIPM and INTERPORE. In this way, my vision of both a society and an international journal has also been fulfilled.

Transport in porous media is an exciting field. It deals with phenomena in natural porous medium domain, such as aquifers and oil reservoirs, manufactured domains, such as filters

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and paper, and biological domains, such as the kidney and the liver. It covers a wide range of scales, from pore scale to regional scales. It involves chemical and biological processes. It requires knowledge in a wide range of basic sciences, including continuum mechanics, thermodynamics, and fluid mechanics. Using all this knowledge, it seeks solutions to important societal issues. Aquifer management, prevention and remediation of subsurface pollution, reservoir engineering, irrigation and drainage, geological disposal of radioactive waste, and CO₂ sequestration in deep brine-containing geological formation may serve as examples. Research on phenomena of transport serves all these applications, and TIPM is the platform where all this research is presented and discussed.

It is interesting to note how over the years, the community of researchers that publishes in TIPM has expanded. The number of submitted papers has been steadily growing, and, although the size of the journal has also been increased, the selection of the good papers has become more difficult. At the same time, the range of authors' disciplines has also widened attracting more researchers based in industry. Also, from a relatively small community of researchers, primarily (but not exclusively) in Europe and the USA, we have now many authors from the Far East and the Middle East.

To help me carry the burden of reviewing and decision making, we have recently recruited a number of Associate Editors who cover a wide range of expertise.

Now, 25 years later, I have come to the conclusion that I have done what I can to promote all these activities on transport in porous media, and decided to pass the editorial baton to someone who will lead TIPM to new and higher peaks. I thank Prof. Martin Blunt, of Imperial College, London, for agreeing to serve as the new Editor in Chief of TIPM, and I use the opportunity to wish him success.

Obviously, whatever I did to promote TIPM was not done alone. First and foremost, I would like to thank the numerous reviewers who advised me on the quality of submitted papers and recommended acceptance, revisions, or rejection, when necessary, always in an effort to maintain the high quality of accepted papers. Allow me to use the opportunity to express my special thanks to Don Nield, of Auckland New Zealand, who volunteered to review hundreds (!) of papers, and his reviews were always meticulous and thorough. I would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board for their advice whenever I approached them. My thanks and appreciations are also due to the six Associate Editors for their excellent recommendations concerning papers in their respective fields of expertise.

I would like to thank Petra D. van Steenberg, Senior Publishing Editor, Earth Sciences and Geography, Springer, for her continuous encouragement, support, and advice concerning all administrative aspects of the journal. I would like to thank Ms. Udayasree Daruvuru, Springer Journals Editorial Office, JEO Assistant, and before her Ms. Cristina Chua, who replaced Ms. Paula Sonneveld, for their efficient management of all the administrative aspects; without their help and clever advice, I could not fulfill my role as Editor.

Finally, needless to add that I am most thankful to the ever-growing readership and researchers—authors of TIPM who trusted me to do my best, as fairly and efficiently as I could, to maintain TIPM as the leading journal in our most exciting and challenging field.