Moving *Building Simulation* to the next level of excellence

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First, I am pleased to announce that the following two papers have received the Best Paper Awards for Volume 4 (2011) of *Building Simulation*:

- Tariku F, Kumaran K, Fazio P (2011). Determination of indoor humidity profile using a whole-building hygro-thermal model. *Building Simulation*, 4: 61 – 78.
- Wang C, Yan D, Jiang Y (2011). A novel approach for building occupancy simulation. *Building Simulation*, 4: 149 – 167.

Selection of the best paper is based on nominations from the editorial board members and the recommendation of an award selection committee consisting of Jean Lebrun (Chair), Hazim Awbi, and Khoo Poh Lam. I would like to thank them for identifying the awardees among many excellent papers published in 2011.

With the publishing of this volume (Volume 5), the Journal is now entering the fifth year since its original launching. As the first international journal focusing on building performance simulation, our goal is to serve the broad readership that may benefit from our publication. The only way to meet this goal is to ensure our journal publishes only papers with the highest quality. Together, let's move the *Building Simulation* journal to the next level of excellence.

As you are well aware, the journal categorizes its papers by five fixed columns. While the submission distribution of these columns (and so is the number of published papers as well as the readers' interest) is not uniform, many readers find this way more convenient to quickly locate the information they are looking for. As the journal covers broad topics, we will continue this categorization in our future regular issues

(however, please do not feel disappointed if you find your "favorite" column is occasionally empty!)

Meanwhile, we also recognize that putting a few relevant papers together is also demanded by many readers. Imagine you are doing literature search on a topic of simulation of infectious diseases in built environment, and you find seven most recent papers on this topic at one place (not to mention the references these papers cite), how excited you would be! Thus, on regular basis, we also publish issues with a special focus of key or "hot" topics in the research field. We now call these issues "topical issues", which we usually invite international recognized experts to serve as guest editors.

This issue belongs to a topical issue, focusing on using building simulation tools to study airborne infection and its control. The issue is guest edited by Prof. Yuguo Li of The University of Hong Kong, and Prof. Bin Zhao of Tsinghua University. They reached out a few renowned and active researchers in this field and compiled this issue. Of course, all the papers went through regular peer-review process. I do hope that these up-to-date research papers could provide important and timely information on this extremely important topic.

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