Editorial

Jean Sulem¹

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Dear Readers,

It is an honor for me to become Editor-in-Chief of *Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering* and I would like to thank Professor Herbert Einstein, co-Editor, for his invitation to this new position. I have served in the last 4 years as Associate Editor for the journal and I would like to acknowledge the tremendous achievements of late Professor Giovanni Barla, who was totally devoted to the journal and made it grow to the leading position and the high ranking it occupies today.

The journal is publishing one issue every month with about thirty papers each. Considering the increasing number of papers submitted (more than 1500 in 2019), some changes have been brought to the overall organization of the journal. Ten Associate Editors, all highly recognized experts in rock mechanics and rock engineering, will share with the Editors the responsibility of the reviewing process and decision making. This will permit us to reduce the time for decisions.

Some changes will also be brought in the Instructions for Authors. Research papers will include *Highlights* in the form of three to five bulleted sentences that will communicate the key findings of the research. As a journal published by Springer Nature, *Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering* adheres to the ethical standards for the quality and the integrity of the published research, as defined by the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE). New tools have been

implemented by Springer Nature for the Editors to check the originality of submitted manuscripts and detect plagiarism. Transparency concerning the individual contributions of the authors to a submitted manuscript will be a mandatory step of the submission process and implemented in the Editorial Manager System.

Ensuring the highest quality of the published papers is a top priority of the editorial team. *Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering* is publishing various types of contributions: full research papers and technical notes but also discussion papers which give our readers the opportunity to make comments on published papers and books reviews. Invited review/state of the art papers will be also promoted.

Finally, I would like to thank all the authors, the reviewers, the editorial and publishing teams who contribute in the development and the success of the journal and promote innovative research for the *Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering* community.

Jean Sulem
Editor in chief.

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✉ Jean Sulem
jean.sulem@enpc.fr

¹ École des Ponts ParisTech, Champs-sur-Marne, France