Editor's Message: *Hydrogeology Journal* increases number of editors to five and two new editors begin

Clifford Voss¹

Received: 27 September 2018 / Accepted: 1 October 2018 / Published online: 13 October 2018
© Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2018

From four to five *HJ* editors

Hydrogeology Journal (HJ) has grown significantly in recent years. Since 2015 the number of submitted manuscripts has increased by one third to over 600 received per year, and the number of articles accepted has increased by almost two thirds to over 200 per year. This has placed great strain on the executive editor (Cliff Voss), on our four editors (Maria-Theresia Schafmeister, Liz Screaton, Martin Appold, Jean-Michel Lemieux), on editorial staff, and on our associate editors, reviewers and translators. As a partial solution to managing the increased workload, the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) and our *HJ* editors have decided to enlist a fifth editor, reducing each editor's current workload by about 20%. Whereas it is the *HJ* editors who manage the review and decision process for each submitted manuscript, we are currently also organizing workload improvements for our editorial office manager (Susanne Schemann) who manages interaction among all participants in the process between submittal and a final publication decision for each manuscript, and for our technical editorial advisor (Sue Duncan) who supports authors in producing the finally accepted version and liaises with Springer-Nature to ensure a high-quality publication. Some changes to our submittal and review process will result from the latter improvements and we will inform everyone of the changes when these are ready to implement, likely in early 2019. Two new editors began their terms in mid-2018, as described in the following.

Liz Screaton ends her tenure as editor

During 2018, Elizabeth Screaton (University of Florida, USA) ended her term supporting the journal and journal article authors, after more than 5 years of devoted and exceptional work. Being an *HJ* editor requires plenty of dedicated time (much of it outside normal work hours), and Liz found herself needing more time for her thriving research pursuits concerning hydrogeology of sediments on the ocean floor and on-land aquifer systems. We wish Liz well in her future endeavors and thank her for the service she provided to the international hydrogeologic community as editor of *HJ*.

Rui Ma begins as *HJ* editor

Rui Ma is a professor in the School of Environmental Studies at China University of Geosciences (CUG)–Wuhan. When she began as *HJ* editor in mid-2018, her starting months overlapped with Liz Screaton's final months as editor, and Liz helped her to get started. Prior to beginning as *HJ* editor, Rui had just completed another significant contribution to *HJ* by being a lead guest editor for the recent *HJ* special issue "Groundwater Sustainability in Fast-Developing China", an extremely successful and valuable contribution to both Chinese and international hydrogeologic literature. She earned her BS (2002) and PhD (2007) degrees in hydrogeology from CUG–Wuhan. Rui then continued as a post-doctoral fellow doing research in hydrogeology at the University of Alabama (USA) from late 2007 to 2009, and she accepted a research assistant professor position at the university in 2010. She returned to China in 2011 and joined the faculty at CUG–Wuhan, where she continues to work at present. Her research interests are wide, and include the interaction of groundwater and surface water, permafrost hydrogeology, and reactive contaminant transport, with significant emphasis on numerical modeling. Rui's recent research work has focused on

---

C. Voss is the executive editor of *Hydrogeology Journal (HJ)*

✉ Clifford Voss
hj.editor.cvoss@gmail.com

¹ International Association of Hydrogeologists, PO Box 4130, Goring, Reading, RG8 6BJ, UK

groundwater-dependent ecosystems in semi-arid and arid areas of China.

It is interesting that Rui started to learn hydrogeology when she was 15 years old. She went to a middle technical school named Changchun Geological School instead of high school; thereafter, her major interest never changed. Rui sees groundwater in earth as being analogous to blood in the human body and believes that humans have not paid enough attention to it. Rui therefore plans to continue her effort to address groundwater's importance and to strengthen our understanding of it.

Jean-Christophe Comte begins as *HJ* editor

Jean-Christophe Comte is a lecturer in the School of Geosciences at the University of Aberdeen (Scotland, UK), beginning there in 2014. Our editor Jean-Michel Lemieux helped him to start his work as a new *HJ* editor for a few months in mid-2018. Jean-Christophe holds a BSc degree in geo-environmental engineering (University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France, 2001) and an MSc in hydrogeology (University of Avignon, France, 2003). From 2003 to 2009, he did research on the coupling of electrical resistivity and

numerical groundwater modeling to quantify saltwater intrusion in coastal aquifers, resulting in a PhD in hydrogeology at the University of Avignon in 2009. During this period, Jean-Christophe also worked part-time as a hydrogeology consultant in France for the company Hydriad on various national and international projects related to groundwater development, modelling and management. In 2009–2014 he carried out postdoctoral research at Queen's University Belfast (Ireland) mostly focusing on multiscale geophysical characterization and modelling of heterogeneous aquifer systems, including weathered/fractured bedrock and coastal aquifers. He also continues to work on projects concerning groundwater security in Sub-Saharan Africa. Jean-Christophe's current research primarily focuses on the use of geophysical methods to improve the application of groundwater models in complex real-case aquifer systems, and on groundwater security in developing countries in the context of ever-increasing human pressures and hydroclimatic extremes. Jean-Christophe also enjoys relaxing during time in his native Lozère, France, located in the French Massif Central. There he experiences some of his favorite natural settings by going hiking, mushroom and berry picking, and kayaking; and he enjoys the food *bien sûr*.