Editor's Message: The 2021 Editors' Choice articles

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This year, 2022, is the United Nations' 'Year of Groundwater' (IGRAC 2021; Wikipedia 2022). In this year, the theme of World Water Day, 22 March 2022, is 'Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible' (United Nations 2021). In addition to the special recognition that groundwater is receiving globally this year, 2022 is also the 30th anniversary of *Hydrogeology Journal* (HJ), providing another good reason to celebrate.

At the beginning of each year in the past, five articles that were published in HJ issues in the previous year were selected as Editors' Choice articles. In order to celebrate and highlight groundwater, in the current special year and perhaps in future years, the HJ Editors—Martin Appold, Jean-Christophe Comte, Jean-Michel Lemieux, Rui Ma, Maria-Theresia Schafmeister and Clifford Voss—have decided to select ten articles as winners of the Editors' Choice designation.

The 2021 Editors' Choice articles are the ten articles that the editors especially like for a variety of reasons and consider to be exceptional. These have been selected from among the ~140 unsolicited (not Special Issue) articles that were published in the 2021 issues of HJ.

While announcing the list of distinguished 2021 articles, the editors and HJ staff wish to thank those people who make HJ article publication possible by volunteering a significant amount of their time and energy. We much appreciate the continued and excellent support provided to HJ and its authors by the HJ associate editors, by the reviewers of HJ manuscripts, and by our abstract translation managers and their teams of helpers.

The Editors' Choice articles are distinguished by a variety of positive attributes including: outstanding science, innovative approach, potentially important conclusions, important methodology, interesting field area or phenomenon, unusual topic, political/social/governance/historical/philosophical interest, challenging arguments, and more. The HJ editors believe that readers will find these articles to be especially interesting and valuable. These highlight the importance of groundwater in our world and how we humans interact with groundwater. The 2021 HJ Editors' Choice winning articles are listed in Table 1, in order of appearance within the 2021 HJ issues.

Particularly in this 'Year of Groundwater', we invite you to download, read, and share all ten articles. These articles may well provide an excellent set of discussion topics for students in groundwater classes and for groundwater professionals at both formal and informal meetings and sessions.

To make it easier for readers to access all of these articles, Springer Nature will grant the ones that are not already freely available online (open access) with free online access for 8 weeks in 2022 following online publication of this announcement. The Editors' Choice articles are also highlighted on the International Association of Hydrogeologists' website (IAH 2022), via IAH social media, and in the *IAH News and Information* magazine.

Congratulations to all of these distinguished authors for producing such valuable and interesting articles!

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Table 1 Hydrogeology Journal's 2021 Editors' Choice articles

Authors	Title	HJ Volume(No.): pages Link/DOI, Open Access (OA)?
Fatemeh Rahimi-Feyzabad Masoud Yazdanpanah Saeed Gholamrezai Mostafa Ahmadvand	Institutional constraints to groundwater resource management in arid and semi-arid regions: a Straussian grounded theory study	29(3): 925–947 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-020-02283-y Not OA
Susanne Charlotta Åberg Annika Katarina Åberg Kirsti Korkka-Niemi	Three-dimensional hydrostratigraphy and groundwater flow models in complex Quaternary deposits and weathered/fractured bedrock: evaluating increasing model complexity	29(3): 1043–1074 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-020-02299-4 OA
Tesfay Kiros Mebrahtu Andre Banning Ermias Hagos Girmay Stefan Wöhrlich	The effect of hydrogeological and hydrochemical dynamics on landslide triggering in the central highlands of Ethiopia	29(3): 1239–1260 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-020-02288-7 OA
Francesca Lotti Iacopo Borsi Enrico Guastaldi Alessio Barbagli Paolo Basile Lorenzo Favaro Adrian Mallia Rachel Xuereb Michael Schembri Julian Alexander Mamo Manuel Sapiano	Numerically enhanced conceptual modelling (NECoM) applied to the Malta Mean Sea Level Aquifer	29(4): 1517–1537 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-021-02330-2 Not OA
Leah L. Bremer Ahmed S. Elshall Christopher A. Wada Laura Brewington Jade M.S. Delevaux Aly I. El-Kadi Clifford I. Voss Kimberly M. Burnett	Effects of land-cover and watershed protection futures on sustainable groundwater management in a heavily utilized aquifer in Hawai'i (USA)	29(5): 1749–1765 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-021-02310-6 OA
José D. Henao Casas Fritz Kalwa Marc Walther Randolf Rausch	Stormwater harvesting in ephemeral streams: how to bypass clogging and unsaturated layers	29(5): 1813–1830 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-021-02345-9 OA
Hans-Olaf Pfannkuch Howard D. Mooers Donald I. Siegel John J. Quinn Donald O. Rosenberry Scott C. Alexander	Review: “Jacob’s Zoo”—how using Jacob’s method for aquifer testing leads to more intuitive understanding of aquifer characteristics	29(6): 2001–2015 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-021-02363-7 Not OA
Cyrille Scherrer Ryan Schweitzer Marc-André Bünzli Ellen Milnes	Rapid groundwater potential mapping in humanitarian contexts: improving borehole implementation in basement environments	29(6): 2033–2051 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-021-02352-w OA
Paul Whincup	Darwin’s deep well at Down House, England (UK)	29(7): 2305–2311 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-021-02378-0 Not OA
Ryan G. Smith Hossein Hashemi Jingyi Chen Rosemary Knight	Apportioning deformation among depth intervals in an aquifer system using InSAR and head data	29(7): 2475–2486 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-021-02386-0 OA

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