

## Editorial: *Géotechnique* – the end-of-term report

With the conclusion of my term as the editor of *Géotechnique* approaching, it is time to bid farewell, to express my gratitude to colleagues and to introduce the new editor-elect.

These have been three exciting years. *Géotechnique* has strived to cement its position as the leading international journal for publishing innovative papers with a major geotechnical impact. The *Géotechnique* editorial advisory panel (GAP) has worked extremely hard to ensure that *Géotechnique* is the preferred place to publish geotechnical papers, not only because of its international reputation, but also its speed of publishing and the quality of its papers. Together with ICE Publishing, we have launched a substantial effort to increase the international authorship and readership of the journal.

It is my great pleasure to report to you that this hard work by the GAP has not been in vain. In the past 3 years, the journal impact factor has almost doubled. At the same time, the average time from submission to publication has decreased by a factor of three. Such metrics cannot be directly correlated to the journal quality and reputation, but the combination of these factors testifies to the fact that the oldest geotechnical journal maintains its place at the top of its peer group. The rapid increase of more than 50% in the yearly number of submissions over the past 3 years could be at least partially attributed to these factors. This put us in a position where we could keep publishing high-quality papers, with the acceptance rate stabilising at about 25%. Currently, about three-quarters of all published papers originate from outside the UK, while the international membership of GAP has for the first time exceeded 50%.

These positive developments would not have been possible without the strong support of the GAP from the British and international geotechnical communities. It has been a great pleasure to work with so many brilliant GAP members over the past 3 years and I am immensely grateful to all of them for their efforts. My special thanks go to Rocco Lagioia, Stuart Haigh, Bill Murphy, Mark Randolph and Lyesse Laloui. Their friendship and hard work kept me going through the most difficult times. My mentor, Professor John Burland, came to save us when we needed him most. Andreas Trabesinger of ETH Zurich and Craig Schaper of ICE Publishing were critical in helping us to implement our reforms. One of our strongest international supporters has been Professor Michele Jamiolkowski, whose written account of his excellent Rankine Lecture on the geotechnical challenges at the Zelazny Most dam is published in this issue.

It is a good habit to leave when things are going well. The GAP has elected Professor Eduardo Alonso of UPC Barcelona as my successor for 2015–2017. Based on the high quality of his work, his enormous experience and excellent international reputation, we are confident that under his leadership the journal will reach new heights. I wish him all the best in the coming 3 years and will support him with everything he may need.

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