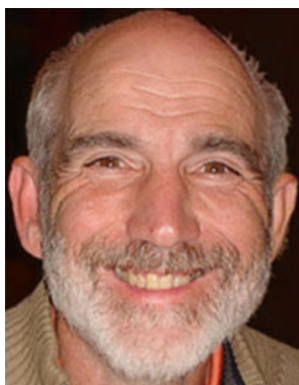


DEAR READERS

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Bob Kleinmann¹

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Here is the promised special issue on New Zealand's acid rock drainage research—the guest editors have written a short introductory column, which follows this one. I thank the editors and their authors for their concerted efforts. One additional paper was submitted later than the rest and is still months away from being ready, so it did not make sense to hold this issue back any longer. As is popular in the cinema, we will publish that paper, when it is ready, as a sequel.

This year, we published more papers (41) and more pages (480) than ever before. We also had more manuscripts submitted (over 150), reviewed, edited, and electronically published than ever before. However, as a result, we now have over 30 papers that have been published on-line, but that won't appear in print until 2016. While we wrestle with how best to deal with our own success, let me remind you

that all of you who are IMWA members can read and download all of our electronically published papers for free without waiting for them to appear in hard copy; that is a major membership benefit. If you have not yet done so, please register to access this journal online at <http://link.springer.com/signup%2Dlogin> and use your Association Code. More information can be found at <http://www.IMWA.info/associationcodes>, but the key is that you need to first register with Springer and thereafter type in the IMWA Association Code to get access. You will receive your individual 2016 IMWA Association Code by e-mail shortly after you pay your 2016 dues. And once you have done that, you will be able to freely access all of our papers months ahead of when they appear in print, and also be able to view all of the papers published in our journal since 1982.

I hope that all of you found the papers published in our journal this year to be exciting, interesting, and relevant. As in the past, our International Editorial Board (not the editors) will soon be re-reading those 41 papers and deciding which should be selected as the best paper published this year—feel free to share your opinions with them if you wish—they are identified on the inside front cover of this journal. I thank them for doing this and while I am expressing my gratitude, I would also like to thank our translators (all of whom are IMWA volunteers): Changshen Wang translates all of our published papers' abstracts into Chinese, Edgardo Donati does the same for Spanish, and Jörn Geleneke, Michael Paul, Walter Pohl, Martin Schultze, Kai Silabetschky, and Wilfred Uhlman take turns translating our abstracts into German. Jorge Zafra is responsible for translation management. All of these translated abstracts appear with the on-line version of the papers.

I also want to inform you that one of our best associate editors, Chuck Cravotta, is stepping down at the end of this calendar year and that we may be losing the services of one

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or two more. We thank Chuck for all of the work that he has contributed to this journal and to IMWA over the past several years. I would also like to thank all of our other associate editors who served for part or all of 2015: Rob Howell, Charlie Braungardt, Rodrigo Embile Jr., Massimo Gasparon, Tiernan Henry, Ashley Jones, Győző Jordán, Ann Maest, Kim Morton, Len Murray, Benoît Plante, Dyllon Randall, Pierre Rosseau, Gideon Steyl, Christie Terrell, Keith Thompson, Teresa Valente, Quiang Wu, and Kendra Zamzow—our success this past year would not have been possible without them. If you are interested in joining this wonderful group in 2016, have a good command of English (so that you can help those of our authors who struggle with the language), and a good grasp of mine water technology, please send me an e-mail so that I can send you more detailed information on what is required.

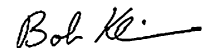
I also want to thank the Springer staff, especially Sri-lakshmi Patrudu, who helped me and my associate editors tremendously as our journal's editorial assistant, and Sri-kanth Reddy, who oversees all of the electronic and hardcopy printing of our papers, and his staff, for all of their help. As our workload has increased, so has theirs.

In addition, I must thank Christian Wolkersdorfer, who in addition to serving as IMWA's General Secretary, serves as this journal's Managing Editor—which means that he is the person behind the scenes who worries about the non-textual aspects of the journal, such as how figures should be formatted, and manages our interactions with our publisher, Springer. Finally, of course, I want to thank all of our authors, without which there would be no

journal, and you, our dedicated readers, without which there would be no reason for this journal to exist. If you have found your membership in IMWA and your subscription to this journal to be of value, please encourage your peers to join IMWA in 2016. There is no question in my mind that membership in IMWA and thereby receiving this journal is the most cost-effective way to learn about the latest advances in mine water research, but more than that, it allows you to meet and interact with all of the field's most knowledgeable practitioners.

Your next opportunity to do that is coming up soon. I hope you are all looking forward to attending and participating in the 2016 IMWA conference, which will be held in July, in Leipzig, Germany (<http://www.IMWA2016.info>). The conference theme is: "Mining meets Water—Conflicts and Solutions". Rob Howell and I are in the process of organizing a special session on extracting value from mine water, which we hope will greatly contribute to advancing that line of research. I look forward to seeing you there, and until then, on behalf of the entire editorial team, our best wishes to all of you for a very festive holiday season and a great 2016!

Regards,



Bob Kleinmann,
Editor-in-Chief