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XXIV Italian Group of Fracture Conference, 1-3 March 2017, Urbino, Italy

Editorial

Francesco Iacoviello^{a*}, Luca Susmel^b, Donato Firrao^c, Giuseppe Ferro^c

^aUniversità di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale, via G. Di Biasio 43, 03043 Cassino (FR) Italy

^bUniversity of Sheffield, Mappin Street, Sheffield, S1 3JD, UK

^cPolitecnico di Torino, Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129, Torino, Italy

According to its Statutes, *Gruppo Italiano Frattura* (the Italian Group of Fracture, IGF) is a cultural association that is devoted to:

- spreading and promoting the results from those research activities specifically focussed on fracture phenomena, with this being done also with the support of *ad hoc* workgroups;
- promoting activities aiming to develop material/structure testing standards;
- cooperating with foreign associations operating in the the fracture field (International Congress on Fracture, ICF; European Structural Integrity Society, ESIS; etc.);
- organizing meetings, workshops, conferences and courses about fracture phenomena
- publishing meeting/workshops/conference proceedings, news, journal etc.;
- implementing those activities that are aligned with the association's aims and scopes.

Since 1981, the IGF conferences are among the most important scientific/technical meetings focussing on “fracture” and “structural integrity” that are organized in Italy every year. The topics of the presentations being delivered range from concrete to stainless steels and from stones to polymers. By considering different loading or environmental conditions, they tackle the fracture issue from different angles (analytical, numerical, experimental, etc.), investigating the phenomena of interest from a micro-level up to a “full scale” level. The fact that the IGF covers such a wide area of interest makes it difficult for the “typical” IGF member to be described... a metallurgist or a materials scientist? A civil

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* Corresponding author. Tel.: +39.07762993681; fax: +39.07762993781.
E-mail address: iacoviello@unicas.it

or a mechanical engineer? A “pc addicted” or a “lab rat”? Well, during the IGF events you can meet all of them and, during the IGF events, a multidisciplinary approach to fracture and structural problems is always offered.

In 2015, the 23rd edition of the IGF Conference was the first one organized as an international event. It was held in Favignana, a wonderful Sicilian island, and the proceedings were published in *Procedia Engineering*. The present issue of *Procedia Structural Integrity* groups together those technical articles that were presented at the 24th IGF Conference (Urbino, March 1-3, 2017), the second organized as an international event. This issue is opened by the invited lecture that was given by Professor Jesús Toribio from the University of Salamanca. During his lecture, Professor Toribio focused his attention on the structural integrity of progressively cold-drawn pearlitic steels. Inside this issue, the reader will find an exhaustive overview of the research work that is being carried out in Italy on fracture and structural integrity related issues as well as many contributions coming from different countries (such as: Greece, Moroc, Ukraine etc). For the first time, IGFXIV was also broadcasted “live” via the IGF Facebook page. Further, according to the IGF tradition, many presentations are now available in the IGF YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/IGFTube>. We hope you will enjoy both the technical articles and the presentations.

Finally, the present volume was possible thanks to the work done by all the members of the IGF Ex-Co... maybe the best Ex-Co that the IGF has ever had, i.e.:

Vittorio Di Cocco (Università di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale)
Giuseppe Ferro (Politecnico di Torino, VicePresident)
Angelo Finelli (Treasurer)
Donato Firrao (Politecnico di Torino, VicePresident)
Francesco Iacoviello (Università di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale, President)
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