

# Editorial

**Dariusz Wanatowski**  
Chairman, Editorial Board



Welcome to *Geotechnical Research*, ICE's first gold open access journal. As you may be aware open access is the practice of providing unrestricted online access to peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles. The main aim of open access is to make research outputs more widely read, cited and used. Open access material is free to download and view, which increases significantly the potential readership of published articles.

Publishing research work in open access journals is becoming increasingly important. For example, UK scientists are aware that from April 2013 final outputs of projects wholly or partly funded by UK Research Councils (RCUK) must be made available as open access. Furthermore, RCUK recommends that authors pay a fee, a so-called article publication charge (APC), to remove the subscription paywall on their published article and make their paper free on a journal publisher's website. Research funding bodies in many other countries also have or are developing similar policies and recommendations. It should also be noted that no library can afford a subscription to every possible journal so not all of the research literature is easily available to researchers and engineers. Finally, research has already shown that free online access substantially increases a paper's impact. So, in my opinion, there is no question whether open access will become the only way of publishing research outputs. The real question is when it will happen...

The main aim of *Geotechnical Research* is to disseminate knowledge through the gold open access model, funded by APC, to geotechnical engineers working in research and practice worldwide. The journal will cover all the aspects of modern geotechnics, including all related disciplines, such as soil, rock and fluid mechanics; geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering; geotechnical design and construction issues; physical and numerical modelling; micromechanics; engineering geology; hydrogeology; and geochemistry. No word limit will be imposed on new submissions, allowing work in its entirety to be judged by peers worldwide regardless of their own budget.

While paper submissions from all parts of the world are equally welcome, I hope *Geotechnical Research* will provide an attractive

publication option for authors in emerging countries who are producing valuable work with technically sound conclusions but which may lack novelty. I believe such research work is still worth publishing and may be particularly interesting for practising geotechnical engineers. I understand researchers in geotechnics may be concerned about a journal publishing work that does not have a requirement to be novel. However, despite its different publication criteria, *Geotechnical Research* will be committed to maintaining ICE's reputation of publishing high-quality work. All articles submitted to the journal will undergo rigorous peer review, based on initial editor screening and blind peer review by independent experts. The review process will be closely monitored by an international editorial board, shortening the time from submission to acceptance. All accepted articles will be published online within 4 weeks from the acceptance date. The editorial board together with the ICE Publishing team are also committed to following the recent success of *Géotechnique Letters* and get accepted to Web of Science in 3 years after publishing the first issue of the journal.

Although the publication fee may appear high, we have compared ICE's *Geotechnical Research* against competitor titles and set our APC at what we believe is an appropriate level. We also offer a wide range of discounts for certain groups, including members of ICE, International Geosynthetics Society or British Dam Society, and authors from International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) countries. Each year, the editorial board will also select the best paper published in *Geotechnical Research* and the corresponding author of that paper will be invited to publish an article in the next year's volume with the publication fee waived.

On behalf of the editorial board and ICE Publishing, I would like to invite geotechnical engineers from all over the world to consider *Geotechnical Research* as a platform for disseminating their research work. I hope you will find this journal interesting and useful for your careers in academia or engineering industry.