
Editorial announcement

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I'm sure you will have noticed that this SPR (Specialist Periodical Report) has a new Editor, my old friend and collaborator Michael Springborg.

Let me explain.

I recently retired from academic life after some 40 years service at UMIST and latterly The University of Manchester. The question arose as to whether to continue as Editor of the Modelling SPR, and to decide the matter I simulated the tossing of a trillion coins (a trillion being a 2009 buzz word as in the context of 'the number of pounds sterling necessary to bail out a UK bank').

I either won or lost, depending on your viewpoint, and the next problem was the choice of successor. It had to be a sound and respected scientist with a knowledge of, and interest in, the world of publishing.

Over the last 20 years, Michael and I have worked together on a number of significant projects with major publishing houses such as the RSC and John Wiley & Sons Ltd. It is the speculative nature of publishing that some projects will fail and others will succeed. This SPR is one of our best successes and so Michael got my vote.

Naturally, a new Editor will have new ideas, and you will learn about these in his Preface.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to all our contributors over volumes 1 through 5. Next come the hard-working RSC staff who rarely get mentioned in despatches. Jeremy Lucas was adamant all those years ago that the Modelling SPR was going to succeed, as indeed it has. In recent years we have been kept on the straight and narrow by Rob Eagling.

I hope you will continue to give Michael the same level of support you gave me for all those years.

