

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ACI is an international leader in advancing the profession through dissemination of knowledge on concrete. Nowhere is this more evident than in their journals, which have been published since 1905. This issue marks the start of a new direction for the *ACI Materials Journal* as the Publications Committee, ACI's first committee, has been dissolved and an Editorial Board has been established. This marks a new first for ACI. This editorial board is composed of an Editor-in-Chief and four incredibly accomplished researchers who are subject matter experts that are well-versed in ACI activities and scientific publishing. This board includes Zachary C. Grassley from Texas A&M University, Maria C. G. Juenger from the University of Texas at Austin, Kamal H. Khayat from the Missouri University of Science & Technology, and Michael David Arthur Thomas from the University of New Brunswick. We are also fortunate to have numerous outstanding ACI staff members that are dedicated to the success of the journal. This includes the leadership of Barry M. Bergin, the Manager of Publishing Services, with the help of the ACI staff engineers. This is clearly an exciting time for the journal.

ACI is known around the world for publications that have influenced building codes, design specifications, and construction practices. The *ACI Materials Journal* is actively seeking new publications that:

- Focus on concrete materials, processing techniques, and construction;
- Have a clearly stated vision for the original contribution of the work;
- Build significantly on prior work while referencing earlier studies and practices;
- Interest the membership of ACI and readers of the journal; and
- Are clearly written and succinct.

The primary objective of the *ACI Materials Journal* is to ensure that those who design and build with concrete have access to the most current and cutting-edge research and information on concrete. This will remain the focus. However, potential new initiatives are being discussed, which may include:

- Development of special issues of the journal that are focused on timely topics that are important to both the academic community and practicing professionals;

- Improving the strong linkage between the research community and practice while increasing both the impact factor of the journal and the dissemination of the knowledge to ACI committees and the *ACI Collection of Concrete Codes, Specifications, and Practices*;
- Increasing the use of the journal as a place to identify research needs of the concrete community;
- Accelerating the implementation of research findings by reducing time from submission to publication and increasing linkages between the journal and ACI committees;
- Improving access to the journal for researchers and practitioners from around the world; and
- Improving the connection between activities of the ACI Foundation, the Strategic Development Council, and the research community.

It is very humbling to be asked to serve as the inaugural Editor-in-Chief. I am looking forward to working closely with the fantastic staff at ACI and the editorial board to keep ACI "Always Advancing." It is important that we recognize that the high level of achievement that the journal has had is due to over 110 years of committed staff and members. Further, the success of any journal is in its authors, who take time to share their knowledge and discoveries, as well as the reviewers who serve as content experts that critically assess a paper's suitability for publication while pointing out areas that may be improved.

*W. Jason Weiss, FACI
Editor-in-Chief
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P.S. Some interesting notes:

1. ACI maintains a reviewer list. If you would like to sign up to be involved as a reviewer for ACI, please visit www.concrete.org/publications/acimaterialsjournal and click on ScholarOne Manuscript Central.

2. ACI offers outstanding access to the journals for student members. I encourage all students who are working in concrete to consider what ACI can provide for your career, as well as access to a wealth of concrete knowledge. More information can be found at www.concrete.org/students.