

Letter from the new Editor in Chief

It is a great honor and pleasure to be invited to take on the role of Chief Editor for the Italian Journal of Geosciences (IJG), the leading journal edited by the *Società Geologica Italiana*.

The IJG has now a well consolidated Impact Factor (IF) metrics (IF-2019: 1.625, Geoscience Multidisciplinary, 5Years IF: 1.932; Clarivate Analytics), demonstrating that together with our authors, the editorial team, the review panel and the publication staff have contributed to strengthen reputation of IJG within the international Earth Sciences community since its foundation in 2009.

I would then first take this occasion to thank my predecessors, Sandro Conticelli succeeded by William Cavazza, as well as the group of topical editors who have all contributed to the development and the publication achievements of the journal during the last twelve years. Building on this foundation, I and the editorial board have the potential to further improve the quality of the journal output.

Nowadays, scientific publications edited by society journals as IJG are facing a critical period since are competing with the commercial publishing policy of the global editorial groups, leaving less and less room to nonprofit players. Competition on publication business mainly deals with the journals' rankings, efficiency of their services and in scientific communication, as well as with financial sustainability.

The future success of IJG therefore largely relies on the capability to continue improving quality of publications, standards for rigorous editing and evaluation of the submitted manuscripts in order to further broader reputation and readership of the journal. Maintaining an attractive and high-impact profile will be thus the major future challenge for the IJG to efficiently respond to the workflow of the geoscience community that can be achieved by:

1. **Ensuring quality of publication and promoting high-quality research** - The need to ensure a high scientific quality of the papers we publish owing to a quality assurance as derived through a rigorous, transparent, fair and timely editorial and peer-review procedure;
2. **Broadening the coverage** - Leading the Journal in a direction where the multidisciplinary nature and the wide spectrum of disciplines of the Earth System Sciences are adequately represented by (i) supporting and expanding the range of contributions into all areas of geosciences; and (ii) maintaining solicited key thematic issues and the continuous supply of high-quality contributions from the wider Earth science community;
3. **Promoting innovation** - Becoming an open publication platform for (i) the new research themes in geosciences, in order to exploit the new opportunities to respond to the future changing needs and great challenges of the Earth system; and (ii) the research outputs of the early career geoscientists.

Lastly, I would take the opportunity to thank the outgoing editorial board members, Federico Agliardi (Università Milano Bicocca, Milano), José Maria Carcione (OGS - Trieste), e Roberto Sulpizio (Università Aldo Moro, Bari), and express my sincere appreciation for the support they have given to IJG during their term. I look forward to continuing this collaboration and receiving advice and ideas for making IJG more valuable for Earth science community. I then welcome the following new Associate Editors: Claudio Chiarabba (INGV – Roma), Marco Petitta (Università La Sapienza, Roma), Laura Pioli (Università di Cagliari) and Alina Polonia (Ismar, CNR); special thanks for their enthusiasm and interest they demonstrated in joining the editorial board of the IJG.

I do hope that all our contributors (authors, reviewers, and editors) will continue to support the Journal and its topicality in the geoscience community.

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