

**ISRM Newsletter No 59 – September 2022
Message from the President**

Dear Colleagues,

The last year Covid19 lockdowns and travel restrictions also continued. Therefore, we had to comply with the new living circumstances and adjust the activities of ISRM, including all ISRM symposia, Board, Commissions and Council meetings, to the new situation with the help of our National Groups. Since they all were given in Volume 24 of ISRM News Journal and ISRM Newsletter No. 56, I don't repeat our achievements in 2021 in this message. However, as a result of a rapid increase in the rate of vaccination with the determination and dedication of the scientists, since the spring season in 2022 a considerable increase in normalization occurred in the whole World and this positive situation encouraged the societies like ISRM to restart face-to-face meetings and conferences.

This year ISRM is the sponsor of nine conferences. Eight of them are Regional Symposia and Specialized Conferences and one is the International Symposium (LARMS2022, Asuncion, Paraguay). Five of these conferences were held between the end of March and mid of September 2022, and except one (RocDyn4, virtual), the other four symposia (TuniRock2022 - Tunisia, 5th MAG - Macedonia, 9th Brazilian Rock Mech. Symp. and EUROCK2022 - Finland) were successfully organized as face-to-face ISRM events and provided us a great opportunity to see our friends and colleagues from our society again about two years after the face-to-face ISRM Workshop that was held in Slovenia in the beginning of February 2020. I participated to TuniRock2022 virtually and to the other two events physically with a great happiness. The number of attendees to 5th MAG and EUROCK-2022 was 220 and 300 from 30 and 40 countries, respectively. In addition, before EUROCK2022 a workshop entitled "Recent ISRM Suggested Methods and Future Prospects" was organized by the ISRM Commission on Testing Methods. In this event nine presentations were carried out and 42 colleagues participated.

The focus of the Board on the improvement of our virtual platform also continued and this year two new ISRM video courses on "Rockburst in Deep Tunnels" and "Crustal Stress Assessment and Its Application in Engineering and Earthquake Research" were also prepared and added in our website. For these videos we sincerely thank to Prof. Xia-Ting Feng and the ISRM Commission on Crustal Stress and Earthquakes, respectively. Another video course is also in preparation and will appear in the ISRM website this year.

As one of the most recently approved ISRM initiatives, the ISRM Young Members' Seminar (YMS) Series, is a virtual event, with the goal of providing a global platform for ISRM young members to share knowledge, experiences and ideas. The events foster knowledge and friendship among young professionals and students of rock mechanics and rock engineering on an international scale. I am very glad to inform you that it continuous very successfully and regularly in each month since January 2022 and the 9th Seminar was delivered in September 2022. In addition, as one of the new ISRM initiatives, the 2nd European Debate was held in June 2022 with the participation of Heinz Konietzky and Jonny Sjöberg.

The first three ISRM Online Lectures of this year were delivered by Prof. Yuzo Ohnishi, Dr. Yingxin Zhou and Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite. We sincere thank to all of them for their very kind contributions. The last Online Lecture of the year will be delivered in December by Dr. Jose Delgado Rodrigues from Portugal.

I am also very glad to inform you that the second ISRM Survey that was prepared by the ISRM Board with the great help of ISRM Young Member Committee in English, Spanish and Chinese to reach a larger number of people was completed. The total number of ISRM members, who participated to this Survey, exceeded 700. The survey forms are now under evaluation and the survey results will be put in the ISRM webpage soon.

Prof. Dr Reşat Ulusay
President

This year until August unfortunately, we have losses of very relevant two great people from our society, Prof. Álvaro González García (Past ISRM V.P. for S. America, 2007-2011, and ISRM Fellow) from Bolivia and Prof. Pierre Bérest (Past President of the French Rock Mechanics Committee, 1996-1999) from France, who passed away on 9 February 2022 and 27 July 2022, respectively. We will never forget their kindness and great contributions to Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering and the ISRM, and their memories will be kept alive for the next generations.

This year the Board organized one virtual interim meeting in May and the annual meetings of the Board, ISRM Commissions and Council will be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, in the mid of October before the ISRM International Symposium "LARMS 2022".

I will be grateful and very happy to see you again in our international symposium LARMS2022 between 16 and 19 October 2022 and other coming ISRM events.

I wish all of you the best, healthy days and successes.



Reşat Ulusay