Editorial

It has been my privilege to act as Honorary Editor of *Géotechnique* for the past three years. During this time I have been consistently impressed by the high quality of the papers published and the commitment of all the people involved. As a practising consulting engineer, I have been particularly aware of the flow of papers with significant practical implications. *Géotechnique* is largely written by researchers and is of course of great importance to academics. Nevertheless, most issues include papers which are of immediate practical relevance to some aspect of geotechnical engineering. Practising engineers cannot afford to disregard *Géotechnique*.

Over those past three years we have had a steady flow of papers with a thoroughly international authorship. We have increased the annual number of issues to ten which, with a lot of hard work by many people, has led to the situation that the average time now taken from first receipt of a paper to its publication is less than one year.

I have been amazed at the consistent dedication of the members of the *Géotechnique* Advisory Panel who process about 150 submissions each year. Each paper is refereed outside the panel, and we are grateful to referees for their important contribution. I would also like to thank the secretariat at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London, especially Mrs Mary Henderson, and the publishers Thomas Telford Limited, notably Mr Leon Heward-Mills.

Each year the British Institution of Civil Engineers

awards prizes to the authors of outstanding papers. It is pleasing to report that for the year 2001 three of these went to *Géotechnique* papers, and we congratulate the authors:

Geotechnical Research Medal: H. G. Poulos, for the paper, Piled raft foundations: design and applications. *Géotechnique*, 2001, **51**, No. 2, Mar.

Telford Prize: E. U. Klotz and M. R. Coop, for the paper, An investigation of the effect of soil state on the capacity of driven piles in sands. *Géotechnique*, 2001, **51**, No. 9, Nov.

Overseas Prize: M. M. Long and N. J. O'Riordan, for the paper, Field behaviour of very soft clays at the Athlone embankments. *Géotechnique*, 2001, **51**, No. 4, May.

The first two issues of next year, February and March, will contain papers on Suction in Unsaturated Soils, assembled for a *Géotechnique Symposium in Print* to be held in London on 6 May 2003. The response to the invitation for papers has been very strong, and the two issues will contain a very important record of the current state of that rapidly developing field.

In January, Professor Guy Houlsby of Oxford University will take over as Honorary Editor. My best wishes go to him and to the future development of this most important journal.

Brian Simpson