

SPE Production & Operations

Vol. 36 // No. 1 February 2021

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Editorial Notes

SPE Production & Operations readers will notice some changes in 2021, beginning with the enhanced functionality and reading experience in OnePetro. As well as providing a new modern look, OnePetro offers improved search and browsing functions along with the ability to read articles in screen view without the need to download PDFs.

We also note changes in our Editorial Board by offering our thanks and appreciation to outgoing Editor-in-Chief Russell Johns, Pennsylvania State University, for his service to SPE journals and the improvements made under his guidance, and welcome incoming EIC Birol Dindoruk, University of Houston.

Further, we thank outgoing executive editor Frank Chang, Aramco Americas Company, for his service to the journal and introduce Niall Fleming as the incoming executive editor. Fleming is a specialist in production technology with Equinor in Norway, having worked previously as a production geologist, chemist, and engineer. His main interest is within the area of formation damage from drilling and completion fluids and for wells in production. Fleming holds a PhD degree in geology from Imperial College London. He is an SPE member and served the journal as author, technical reviewer, and associate editor before taking on this new role. Fleming is a recipient of the SPE *A Peer Apart* award and a six-time recipient of SPE's outstanding technical reviewer award.

SPE Production & Operations Impact Factor: 1.875

Average time to first decision: 27 days

Executive Summary

Welcome to this first issue of the journal for 2021! It is also my first issue as executive editor. I would like to thank the previous executive editor, Frank Chang, for his excellent work and for making my transition to the new position as smooth as possible.

When I started in October last year, I looked over the associate editor (AE) roster and had two observations.

- a. It was very male dominated. Having worked in Norway for the past 19 years where there has been a very high focus on gender equality over many years, I appreciate the importance of this. To address this imbalance in the AE roster, we now have several new female AEs, such that approximately 40% of the AEs are female.
- b. It was composed mainly of AEs from North America. The journal receives papers from all producing regions of the world. Therefore, the location of the AEs should in part reflect this. The way in which fields are developed, completed, and produced differ between the regions and therefore it is important that the AE roster reflects the geographic differences. To help achieve a better balance, we now have several new AEs based around the North Sea.

I hope that the new AE roster make-up will help improve the quality of papers published in the journal.

On another topic, I wanted to make some observations concerning the writing of a paper and provide some tips to those thinking of submitting a paper to the journal. SPE-171550-PT provides some very good advice on how to write a technical paper. Please read through this if you are new to paper writing or have written many!

- a. **Standard of English.** There is nothing more frustrating for a reviewer to read a paper and not be able to understand the text due to poor English. If you are uncertain about the standard of English in a paper, please let someone read it who is competent in English and who can make corrections, as required. A paper submitted to the journal with poor English will be sent back to the authors with the recommendation to resubmit.
- b. **SPE Style Guide.** There is no getting around this—the style guide must be adhered to. Many papers I read have not considered that there is a style guide. The function of the style guide is to standardize all papers such that they have the same format. While writing a paper, I make sure I conform to the style guide as I go along. When I first started writing papers, I would first complete the paper and then do the formatting. Please be aware, if you do it this way, the formatting can almost take as long as writing the paper!
- c. **Paper title.** This is perhaps an overlooked part of a paper, but it is worth spending some time in identifying a concise title that conveys the manuscript contents. I use the word “concise” because I often see paper titles that stretch over two to three lines (I have been guilty of this!). I am trying to stick to a paper title of one line only.
- d. **Importance of a good introduction.** Any good paper will have an introduction, presentation of results, discussion, and conclusions. In my opinion, one of the most important elements of a paper is the introduction. This sets the direction for the paper and is the foundation upon which the rest of the paper will be based. It is worthwhile spending time on the introduction to make sure that it gives overall balance to the paper.
- e. **The paper should read well and have a logical flow.** While writing a paper, I try to use sentences that convey my meaning without being overly complicated. I think this is important as it helps explain often complicated factors in a way that is easy to understand. Good technical writing should convey ideas using precise language. Further, when reading a paper, it can be confusing if the sections do not follow in a logical manner. A paper should follow a well-defined sequence where each section is a build-up to the next, ultimately leading to the conclusions. The paper should flow.
- f. **Figures and tables.** Please try not to have too many figures in your paper. It disrupts the flow of the paper if you are constantly having to refer to figures. Use only those figures that are necessary and amalgamate them, if possible. The figures and tables should follow the SPE style guidelines.
- g. **Conclusions.** In many cases, most people will read the abstract/possibly the introduction, and then jump to the conclusions. If they are really interested, they will read the main body of the paper. In a few cases, I see that the conclusions are added as an afterthought or a summary of the paper. If you do this, you are doing a disservice to all the hard work you have put in. Please spend time in capturing the main conclusions for your work and the implications these can have for field application.
- h. **Laboratory-testing-based papers.** Such papers are important, but often I wonder how I can apply the findings in my day-to-day engineering activities. Please include a section in such papers on the implications that the laboratory findings can have on our industry.

Niall Fleming
Executive Editor, *SPE Prod & Oper*
Specialist Production Technology, Equinor, Norway

Thank You to Our 2020 Reviewers

SPE Production & Operations extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who provided a technical review for at least one paper during 2020. Many of our reviewers contributed their expertise to more than one paper during the year. We recognize the time commitment these individuals have made in agreeing to review papers and appreciate the impact that their efforts have had on the published papers throughout the year. Volunteers such as these individuals are essential to ensuring that the journal publishes manuscripts of high quality and lasting value. Thank you to our dedicated reviewers for their contributions.

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