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Editorial Notes

SPE Journal 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.

The Executive Editor team of Roberto Aguilera, Reza Fassihi, and Luis Ayala will continue to bring you thoughtfully constructed issues and high-quality papers under the updated scope of the journal, which covers novel theories and emerging concepts (not including review articles or multi-part articles) spanning all aspects of engineering for oil and gas exploration and production, including drilling and completions, geomechanics, production and facilities, oilfield chemistry, CO_2 sequestration and injection, reservoir evaluation and engineering, numerical simulation, data analytics, economics and externalities including health, safety, environment, and sustainability.

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Executive Summary

This is our first issue of 2021—which marks a year since the first opportunity I had to write to all of you in our *SPE Journal* readership. It continues to be an honor to serve as a member of *SPE J*'s executive editorial team. With every issue, it becomes even more clear to me all the immense dedication required from all SPE volunteers and our fantastic SPE staff to make it happen. We remain thankful for their utmost professionalism, which has remained unabated in the middle of these challenging times.

In this new issue, *SPE Journal* publishes 30 manuscripts with a good cross-section of the latest novel insights and developments in oil and gas upstream reservoir operations. Not surprisingly, unconventional reservoirs feature predominantly within all categories, which feature a good degree of overlap as a result. These 30 manuscripts are organized in four general categories: Geomechanics and Coupled Flow (8 papers), Reservoir Physics (6 papers), Proppants and Hydraulic Fracturing (9 papers), and Unconventional Reservoirs (7 papers). Please join me in thanking all authors for their efforts in bringing their best results to you.

SPE Journal remains strong, and it is also because of you. We will always need your support. For all our authors, please continue to submit your brightest ideas and the work that makes you most proud to *SPE J.* For our readership at large, please consider volunteering as a member of our editorial review team as a technical reviewer or an associate editor. Expertise in all areas are welcome, but our greatest needs now are found in areas of drilling and completions, production engineering, and data analytics. Those interested in volunteering as an associate editor can contact any one of the journal's executive editors or the SPE Peer account at peer@spe.org. Please keep in mind that SPE Associate Editors must have 10+ years professional expertise in any of the particular areas mentioned above or covered by the journal.

I hope you find the new insights published in this issue useful for your practice. And again, do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to volunteer as part of our editorial team!

Luis F. Ayala, *SPE J.* Executive Editor,
The Pennsylvania State University

Thank You to Our 2020 Reviewers

SPE Journal 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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