Celebrating our 25th year

2019 is an important milestone for applied geoscience – as *Petroleum Geoscience* starts its 25th year of publishing leading research papers on exploration and development of sub-surface hydrocarbon resources and related themes in applied geoscience. The first issue of the Journal was published in January 1995, and it has been all uphill since then – by that I mean progress in climbing the hills of earth science. What has changed in 25 years? The topics and themes addressed have been recognisable and fairly constant over that period (seismic imaging, stratigraphy, tectonics, basin analysis, reservoir modelling, etc.), but what has changed most are the advances in the techniques applied. Seismic imaging has moved on in leaps and bounds (e.g. waveform analysis and imaging), computer simulations now employ multi-physics analyses to multi-million cell models and the scales of analysis now go from the nanoscale (e.g. pore imaging) well past the basin scale to crustal-scale tectonic analysis. Hopefully, careful geological observation of rock samples (at outcrop or in core) is still a foundation for any geoscience discipline, but the analytical methods used to take those observations into analysis and interpretation have moved on in leaps and bounds. If you have a moment, take a look at back issues of *Petroleum Geoscience* to see how your branch of earth science has moved on over the last 25 years.

Looking to the future, we are publishing this year’s Journal with a special front cover to celebrate our anniversary with some inspiring images which capture our multi-disciplinary coverage, and which demonstrate the significant advances we have made in imaging and interpreting the subsurface. The front cover for this issue is a multi-data view of the Gulf of Mexico offshore basin – an image which captures features from seismic imaging, stratigraphy, fault interpretation and salt tectonics. Another aspect relevant to the Journal’s coverage of topics in geoeenergy and applied earth science, is that this basin which has functioned as a vital petroleum resource is now the focus of evaluation as a regional geologic sink for large-scale CO₂ storage. Inspiring images aside, I do hope our 25th anniversary edition inspires you to benefit from and contribute to the excellent research papers found inside.

This issue (25:1) includes papers on hydrocarbon generation and petroleum systems, fractured reservoir analysis and carbonate reservoir characterisation. Basins studied range from onshore Austria, the Shetland area of the North Sea, the Barents Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and the South China Sea. The studies on understanding salt welds and hydrothermal vents are intriguing, as is the use of regional gravity inversion to understand rifting and seafloor-spreading.

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