

PREFACE

The first Finite Elements in Fluids Conference took place 25 years ago in Swansea, UK. Since then it has been the catalyst, gathering together researchers from all over the world who are engaged in computer modeling of all aspects of fluid flow phenomena, and has been held in Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Spain and the US.

Motivated by the rapid progress made in these and all other aspects of science and engineering in opening new frontiers, and causing changes that deeply affects our endeavors, the Tenth International Conference on Finite Elements in Fluids took place in Tucson, AZ during 5–8 January 1998. It provided a great opportunity to look back and assess the progress made during these 25 years and project a view to the future. This conference was dedicated to Professor Richard H. Gallagher, who was one of the founding fathers of the conference and had the great vision to foresee the important role that finite element methods would play in numerical modeling. Unfortunately Professor Gallagher passed away in September 1998, before the conference took place.

The driving force behind this conference has been the strong conviction that one of the most efficient ways to exchange information and create strong working relations among scientists and engineers engaged in numerical simulations of flow phenomena is by establishing personal contact among the researchers. This was reconfirmed in the Tucson conference, where over a hundred researchers representing 20 countries gathered and listened to as many presentations of the highest technical quality.

To further promote the valuable results of the meeting, the invited speakers were asked to contribute an extended version of their papers to be peer reviewed and collected into a special volume of papers that will commemorate this event. This issue is the result of that effort. We want to take this opportunity to thank the contributors, as well as the editors and publishers, for their efforts, patience and encouragement during the process of achieving this goal.

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