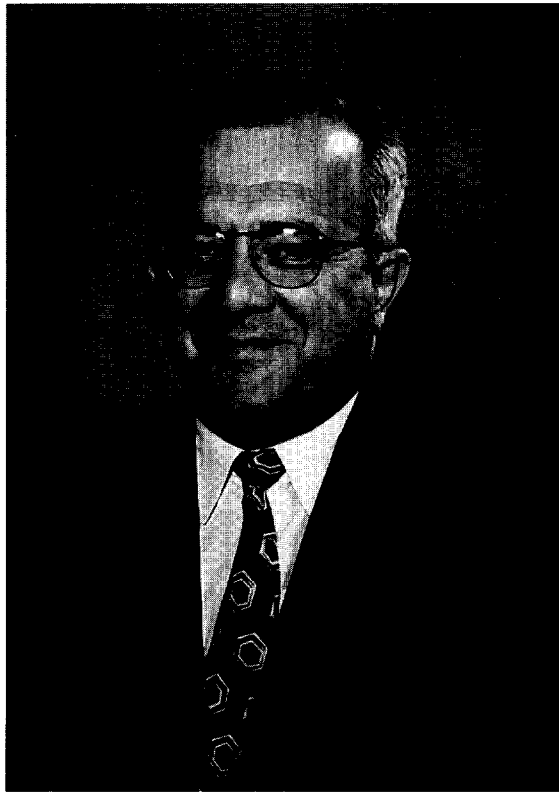


Dedication to Yalcin B. Acar



Yalcin B. Acar
1951–1996

Yalcin B. Acar, the organizer and editor of this special edition of *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, lost his life by accident on 9 May 1996 while returning home from a meeting with Department of Defense sponsors in Louisiana on electrochemical site remediation.

Since 1981 Dr Acar had been a member of the faculty in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Louisiana State University, where he specialized in Geotechnical Engineering. He was born and educated in Turkey, where he received his BS (1973), MS (1975) and PhD (1980) degrees from Bogazici University in Istanbul. He came to the United States in 1980 as a post-doctoral fellow and quickly became widely known, both for his many original research contributions and for his dedicated work for the advancement of his profession.

Dr Acar's early research interests centered on in-situ testing for determination of soil properties, soil behavior, and soil-structure interaction. With the growth of environmental geotechnics during the latter half of the 1980s, he began to devote more of his attention to the fundamentals of electrokinetics and the applications of electrokinetic processes to the remediation of contaminated sites. He quickly rose to a leadership position in this rapidly developing field. Dr Acar and his students undertook a series of important experimental and theoretical studies that have elucidated many of the complex physical and chemical reactions and interactions that accompany the application of direct current electrical fields to soil-water-electrolyte systems—reactions that must be understood properly if electrokinetics is to provide a viable and economical technology for site remediation. He established Electrokinetics, Inc. to develop and commercialize technologies that employ multi-species transport in porous media under electrical fields.

When the proposal was put forward that a special issue of the *Journal of Hazardous Materials* be organized on electrokinetics, Yalcin Acar was the logical choice to lead the effort, and he accepted the assignment with enthusiasm. The present collection of papers, covering many aspects of electrochemical and electrokinetic processes in soils, serves as a memorial to his many accomplishments.

On a personal note, it was my privilege to have known Yalcin both as a friend and as a colleague since soon after his arrival in the United States. We talked and corresponded often about our work and our profession. His enormous dedication and hard work were hallmarks of his daily life; he was guided by strong principle; he was a deep thinker, and he was continuously searching for the bigger meaning. We are all richer for having had him among us.

James K. Mitchell
Blacksburg, Virginia
21 November 1996