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PREFACE

DEDICATED TO PROF. THOMAS JOSEPH ROBERT HUGHES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

HUČKO Branislav[1]

[1]Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Applied Mechanics and Mechatronics, Nám. slobody 17,812 31 Bratislava, Slovakia,
e-mail: branislav.hucko@stuba.sk

Prof. Thomas J.R. Hughes was born in 1943. Nowadays he is Peter O'Donnell Jr. Chair in Computational and Applied Mathematics, Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics University of Texas at Austin. He holds B.E. and M.E. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Pratt Institute and an M.S. in Mathematics and Ph.D. in Engineering Science from the University of California at Berkeley. He taught at Berkeley, Caltech and Stanford before joining the University of Texas at Austin in 2002.

He is an elected member of the US National Academy of Sciences, the US National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas, and a Foreign Member of the Royal Society of London, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and the Istituto Lombardo Accademia di Scienze e Lettere. Dr. Hughes has received honorary doctorates from the universities of Louvain, Pavia, Padua, Trondheim, Northwestern, and La Coruña.

Prof. Hughes is one of the most widely cited authors in Computational Mathematics and Engineering Science, with over 100,000 Google Scholar citations. He has received the Huber Prize and Von Karman Medal from ASCE, the Timoshenko, Worcester Reed Warner, and Melville Medals from ASME, the Von Neumann Medal from USACM, the Gauss-Newton

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Medal from IACM, the Computational Mechanics Award of the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Grand Prize from the Japanese Society of Computational Engineering and Sciences, the Computational Mechanics Award of the Japanese Association for Computational Mechanics, the Humboldt Research Award for Senior Scientists from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the AMCA Award for an International Scientific Career from the Argentinian Association for Computational Mechanics, the Wilhem Exner Medal from the Austrian Association für SME (Öesterreichischer Gewerbeverein, OGV), and the SIAM/ACM Prize in Computational Science and Engineering. He has also received ASCE's highest honor, election to Distinguished Member, and ASME's highest honor, the ASME Medal.

Prof. Hughes has delivered numerous distinguished named and plenary lectures at international congresses. He has been a multiple plenary lecturer at World Congresses of Computational Mechanics and US National Congresses of Computational Mechanics. He has also been a plenary lecturer at the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM), in Hyderabad, India, in 2010, representing the field of Numerical Analysis. Prof. Hughes was only the second engineer to have ever been invited to deliver a plenary lecture at an ICM in it's over one-hundred-year history, the first being Theodore von Karman in 1928.

The Special Achievement Award for Young Investigators in Applied Mechanics is an award given annually by the Applied Mechanics Division of ASME. In 2008 this award was renamed the Thomas J.R. Hughes Young Investigator Award.

In 2012 the Computational Fluid Mechanics Award of the United States Association for Computational Mechanics was renamed the Thomas J.R. Hughes Medal.

In 2016 Dr. Hughes was awarded by the Medal of STU in Bratislava too. And nowadays it is our honour to dedicate this special issue to Prof. Hughes.