

Nordic Concrete Research	
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Preface

This issue of *Nordic Concrete Research* shows the breadth of ongoing research in the field of concrete in the Nordic region. The seven articles cover a wide range of topics, including concrete with slag, concrete with wheat husk ash, carbon dioxide absorption through carbonation, self-healing of cracks, repair with high-performance concrete, statistic methods for assessing the strength of existing hollow core slabs, and the possibility of cleaning swimming pools with ultraviolet light instead of chlorine, which would ultimately make the reinforced concrete pool less susceptible to reinforcement corrosion. A common denominator for all seven articles is sustainability. By replacing parts of the Portland cement with slag and ash, carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced. Through repair and self-healing, the lifespan can be extended. A reduced use of chlorine means that the swimming pool can be used for longer periods. Carbonation leads to the recovery of some of the carbon dioxide. Good opportunities to determine the strength of existing buildings improve the possibilities for reuse.

Over the past two decades, many scientific journals have undergone a paradigm shift, moving from readers paying to access new findings to authors paying to publish their findings. This is of course a result of the development of the internet. The journals no longer need to be printed and distributed by post. Research funders and universities support this transition. Through *Open Access*, reading becomes free and more people can easily access the findings that universities produce with support from the funders.

NCR has been a small percentage of scientific journals in that both writing and reading have been free. This is because first the cement companies and now the five Nordic concrete associations have borne the costs for the publisher and editorial staff. Now the *Nordic Concrete Federation* and its research committee are discussing a change with the publishing company *Paradigm*. If we introduce a cost for publishing, an *APC* (Article Processing or Publishing Charge), it will be significantly lower than the corresponding cost for publishing in other international concrete journals. And for the individual researchers and their institution, it does not have to involve any increased cost at all, as it is common for universities, through their libraries or other administrative units, to cover this cost. If and when this occurs, it will be announced on the websites of *NCR* and the five concrete associations.

Stockholm in June 2026

Johan Silfwerbrand
Editor of NCR