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Introduction to Selected Contributions from the 51st US Rock Mechanics/Geomechanics Symposium Held in San Francisco, California from 25 to 28 June, 2017

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Welcome to the ARMA 2017 special issue of Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering.

Every year some of the best papers submitted to the annual US Rock Mechanics/Geomechanics Symposium are chosen to be extended and expanded into full peer-reviewed RMRE papers. This issue contains eight papers from the 51st US Symposium.

The annual Symposium draws all aspects of rock mechanics and rock engineering, from university faculty to industrial researchers to field practitioners. The papers were chosen to represent the represented technical and national diversity.

The papers concentrate on balancing experimental work with theoretical interpretation, and include field work as well as fundamental calculations.

Special appreciation goes to Prof. Haiying Huang (Georgia institute of Technology) and Dr. John Dudley (Shell International Exploration and Production) for their help in choosing the papers, and of course to the many reviewers who worked very hard making these papers special.