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Preface

The Covid-19 pandemic that hit the world in March 2020 has influenced our society also during the autumn 2020. The Nordic universities have to different degrees locked down giving lectures and other education digitally. Teaching and examination have taken much more time than usual. Since researchers often also are teachers and PhD students often act as teaching assistants, the pandemic has probably also slowed down the research activities, e.g., the writing process. Nordic Concrete Research (NCR) is not unaffected. However, the NCR editor is happy to publish six interesting research papers in this December 2020 issue. Sustainability is the number one subject of today's concrete research. Five out of six papers deal with various aspects of sustainability. The most frequent measure is still to replace part of the Portland cement with industrial by-products or other materials with much less environmental footprint. In this NCR issue, various authors study bauxite residue, bio ashes, slag, fly ash, and sub-absorbent polymers. The sixth paper provides practical recommendations concerning how to apply shotcrete on a surface.

The Norwegian Concrete Association has decided to postpone the 24th Nordic Concrete Research Symposium one year. It is now scheduled for August 2021. Since the vaccine is coming to Europe during early spring 2021, we are looking forward towards a physical symposium. The importance of meeting other researchers during sessions, coffee breaks, lunches, dinners, and other mingle events cannot be exaggerated. A lot of researchers and PhD students have submitted abstracts to this symposium. Since the symposium organizers are following the NCR Symposium format, only extended abstracts will be included in the proceedings. With seven more months to the Symposium, there will be a lot of time to develop the contributions to full papers that would be most welcome by our scientific journal Nordic Concrete Research. The deadline for the June issue of NCR is in March 2021.

Stockholm in December 2020

Johan Silfwerbrand
Editor of NCR