

INTRODUCTION

The Third Pan American Congress of Applied Mechanics (PACAM III) was held at the *Escola Politécnica da Universidade de São Paulo*, in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, during January 4-8, 1993.

The PACAM congresses are sponsored by the American Academy of Mechanics (AAM) and are held every other year, during the first week of January, in one of the countries of the Americas. The objective of each congress is to promote technical interactions between research engineers, scientists, and graduate students.

The organizing and editorial committees of PACAM III accepted nearly 200 short papers from South America, North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. These four-page papers appear in a 774-page proceedings of the congress, which was printed in Brazil.

This special supplement of *Applied Mechanics Reviews*, edited by the chairman of PACAM III and by the chairman of the local arrangements committee for the congress, contains the extended version of a number of the papers that were presented at PACAM III. These papers were selected by several reviewers who attended the congress.

We gratefully acknowledge the support received from the *Escola Politécnica da Universidade de São Paulo*, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, FAPESP (*Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo*), and the National Science Foundation.

The Fourth Pan American Congress of Applied Mechanics (PACAM IV) will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in January 1995.

M R M Crespo da Silva
C E N Mazzilli
Co-Chairmen
Organizing and Editorial Committee