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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Aurelio L. Araujo holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering and is currently part of the Structural and Computational Mechanics Group of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, at Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa. His research interests are shared between structural modelling and optimisation in multifunctional and adaptive composite structures and also identification of material parameters in advanced structures. He has authored more than 40 papers in international journals, about 100 communications in international conferences, two book chapters and has edited 14 books or special issues of international journals. He is member of the editorial board of four international journals in the field of composites and advanced structures.

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The present special issue of the *International Journal of Automotive Composites* contains extended versions of selected papers presented at the *First International Conference on Automotive Composites (ICAUTOC 2016)*, held on 21–23 September, 2016 at Lisboa, Portugal. The ICAUTOC conference series is the first on automotive composites aimed to bring together and to disseminate knowledge between academics/researchers and industry practitioners. These conferences are a forum for engineers and applied scientists engaged in composite materials within automotive vehicles to contribute to the field and to disseminate technical information. This first edition gathered about 70 participants from 18 different countries.

ICAUTOC conferences focus on advanced composites (FRPs, reinforced thermoplastics, carbon-based composites and many others) and how they are designed, processed and utilised in automotive vehicles. They include technical sessions on advanced composites in vehicle design/analysis, intending to cover all phases of composites design, analysis, modelling, testing, manufacturing and failure analysis. It is also expected to shed light on the performance of existing composites and future developments in automotive materials technology. The term, ‘automotive’, includes passenger cars, sport utility vehicles, vans, trucks, buses and recreational vehicles.

The guest editor of this special issue would like to express his gratitude to the authors who accepted the invitation to prepare and submit extended versions of their conference papers and also to the reviewers for their help in assessing the suitability of the manuscripts for publication in this journal. It is expected that the papers in this issue

will contribute and provide an insight into the latest developments and future trends in automotive composites. The guest editor would also like to acknowledge the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Ahmed Elmarakbi, and Inderscience Publishers for the opportunity to organise this special issue.