

# Preface



In September 2015, an international symposium entitled “Recent Trends in Fracture and Damage Mechanics” was held at the Institute of Mechanics and Fluid Dynamics at TU Bergakademie Freiberg. The symposium was organized in honor of the scientific contributions of Meinhard Kuna to the field of fracture and damage mechanics. In parallel, celebrating his 65th birthday, Professor Kuna also officially retired at this event. All those who knew him were confident that this would in no way deter him from further research. Many of his alumni, former colleagues, scientific companions, cooperating partners as well as personal friends

agreed without hesitation to contribute to the symposium. The present volume, which includes the proceedings of the symposium, provides for the interested reader an overview of the development of some fields of fracture and damage mechanics in the last decades. We are pleased to dignify thus the lifetime achievement of Meinhard Kuna in an appropriate manner.

First of all, we would like to thank Meinhard Kuna for being our scientific mentor for the last years. Through his own experiences at the IFE Halle, he also tried to provide excellent working conditions during our doctorate time in Freiberg. Personally, we became acquainted with an initially somewhat distant scientist, whose soft core, expressed as a kind-hearted, equitable, and fatherly supervisor, appeared after some time. We think that retiring—or better said, the release of responsibility in a gradual manner—will not be an easy step in the life of Meinhard Kuna. Therefore, we wish him and his family all the best for this challenging task and their future.

Furthermore, we would like to thank all authors contributing to this volume and the anonymous reviewers for their comments helping to improve the manuscripts.

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