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Zhigang Peng named editor-in-chief of *Seismological Research Letters*

Georgia Tech scientist takes helm of top seismology journal

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23, 2013 – The Seismological Society of America (SSA) announced today the appointment of Zhigang Peng, associate professor of geophysics at Georgia Institute of Technology, as editor-in-chief of *Seismological Research Letters* (*SRL*).

The bimonthly *SRL* serves as the seismology community's general forum for informal communication and is evolving into a medium for fast-breaking analysis of recent major earthquake and tsunami events. The international journal features articles on topics of broad seismological interest, special earthquake reports and opinion pieces on current topics in seismology.

“In my view, *SRL* is a unique journal that helps seismologists around the world communicate with each other and to the general audience. *SRL* has enhanced its reputation by increasing its impact factor and broadening the readership,” said Peng. “I would like to devote my time to the journal because of my growing interest in both cross-discipline collaboration and disseminating scientific information to the public.” Peng succeeds Jonathan Lees of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who announced earlier this year that he would step down to fulfill his expanded duties as chair of the Department of Geological Studies.

Peng's career is defined by his productivity. He has published 59 peer-reviewed papers that have contributed much to the understanding physics of earthquakes and faults, including important advances in earthquake triggering, deep tectonic tremor, fault zone structure and inner-core structure.

In addition to continuing to conduct his own research, Peng has helped grow the Geophysics group at Georgia Tech. His leadership helped rebuild the group and attract quality graduate students. His online tutorial on Seismic Analysis Code is one of the most widely used teaching materials. Peng has also been a frequent commenter in national and international media, educating the public about major seismological events.

Peng grew up in the Sichuan Basin, China, not far from the epicentral region of the 2008 magnitude 7.9 Wenchuan earthquake. He earned his undergraduate degrees in geophysics



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and computer application at the University of Science and Technology of China (Hefei, China) and a Master's in electrical engineering and a doctorate in geological sciences from University of Southern California. In 2010 Peng was awarded SSA's Charles F. Richter Early Career Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the goals of the Society. He has also served as an associate editor of the *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America*, *Journal of Geophysical Research* and *SRL*.

SSA is a scientific society devoted to the advancement of earthquake science. Founded in 1906 in San Francisco, the Society now has members throughout the world representing a variety of technical interests: seismologists and other geophysicists, geologists, engineers, insurers, and policy-makers in preparedness and safety.

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