

ICRI TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES—THE FIRST 25 YEARS



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In 2013, ICRI celebrated its 25th anniversary. As many of you know, ICRI originated at a World of Concrete seminar in February 1988, during which attendees voiced their frustration about the lack of standards and guidelines for concrete repair. This led to a vision by Jim Warner to form an organization dedicated to improving the quality of concrete repairs. The inaugural meeting of the International Association of Concrete Repair Specialists (IACRS) was held in Naperville, IL, on May 21, 1988, and included 66 individuals from around the United States and Canada, including contractors, manufacturers, and engineers. The organization changed its name to the International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) in 1993.

After 25 years, the mission of ICRI remains to improve the quality of concrete repairs by being a leading resource for education and information in the field of concrete repair, restoration, and protection. The Technical Activities Committee (TAC) within ICRI is responsible for the development of all technical information produced by ICRI technical committees. In addition, TAC is responsible for the technical sessions at national conventions, including the selection of speakers. Much has been accomplished by the technical committees and task groups in the first 25 years of ICRI. The following is a brief history of ICRI technical activities.

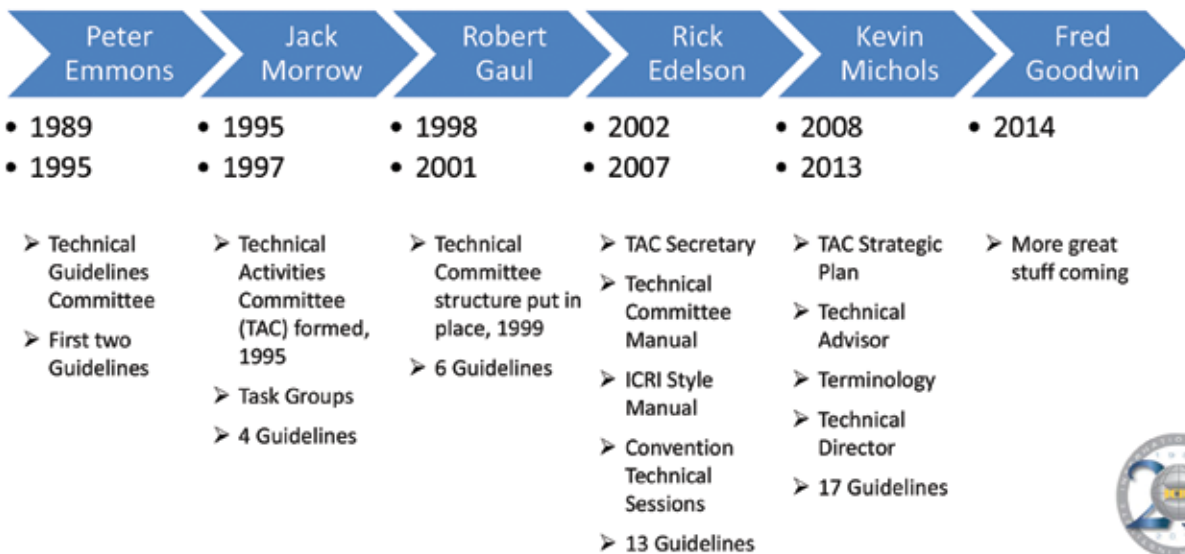
In 1989, the Technical Guidelines Committee was formed with the task to produce technical guidelines. The committee was chaired by Peter Emmons and included Kermit Bright,

Richard Delargey, Don Gardonio, Robert Tracy, and Douglas White. These individuals were the technical guideline trailblazers and produced ICRI's first two guidelines: "Surface Preparation Guidelines for the Repair of Deteriorated Concrete Resulting from Reinforcing Steel Oxidation" in 1989, and "Guide for Selecting Application Methods for the Repair of Concrete Surfaces" in 1992. These guidelines were simple, well-illustrated, and most importantly, practical and relevant. Adoption and publication of the first two guidelines required a two-thirds majority of affirmative votes from membership.

As time went on, several small task groups were formed to develop more guidelines on various subjects. In 1995, the Technical Activities Committee (TAC), chaired by Jack Morrow, replaced the Technical Guidelines Committee. TAC was responsible for all Task Groups and Technical Guidelines. During the period from 1995 through 1998, the first two previously mentioned guidelines were reaffirmed, and two new guidelines were produced, including ICRI's biggest seller, "Selecting and Specifying Concrete Surface Preparation for Sealers, Coatings, and Polymer Overlays," which revolutionized the repair industry by introducing concrete surface profile (CSP) standards.

From 1998 through 2001, TAC was chaired by Robert Gaul. Under his leadership, two additional guidelines were published, and TAC moved from a task group structure to a committee structure in 1999 that included seven committees: Evaluation, Surface Preparation, Repair Materials and Methods, Corrosion, Strengthening and Stabilization, Coatings and Waterproofing, and Grouting.

TAC Highlights



Rick Edelson took over as TAC Chair in 2002 and served two terms through 2007. With the growth of ICRI, new technical committees being formed, and the ongoing production of technical guidelines, more formalization to the process of producing guidelines and operating committees became relevant. Edelson championed this large undertaking and formalized the TAC Secretary position, enlisting Jim McDonald to serve in that role. Major accomplishments included development of the Technical Committee Manual and ICRI Style Manual, outlining the operational and formatting requirements of technical guidelines, respectively. Under Edelson's tenure, TAC became responsible for the technical sessions at the national conventions, and seven new guidelines were produced, including ICRI's first joint guideline published with NACE and SSPC, "Guide for Design, Installation, and Maintenance of Protective Polymer Flooring Systems for Concrete."

After serving on TAC for a number of years, I had the privilege to be appointed TAC Chair in 2008 and completed two 3-year terms at the end of 2013. Four new guidelines were produced in that time period, including ICRI's second joint guideline, this one with the Post-Tensioning Institute, "Guide for Evaluation and Repair of Unbonded Post-Tensioned Concrete Structures," making a total of 17 technical guidelines available to date. In 2011, a 5-year strategic plan was developed for TAC to establish goals and initiatives to guide future ICRI technical activities. TAC has made progress by reaching several of these goals. Jim McDonald continues to serve TAC in an increased role beyond TAC Secretary, including technical reviews, developing the Concrete Repair Terminology section on the ICRI website, and working with ICRI staff and the committees to keep technical information on the website up to date. I am very excited that Ken Lozen has recently joined ICRI as

its full-time Technical Director. Many of you know Ken, as he has been active in ICRI since joining as a Charter Member in 1988. His experience, knowledge, and commitment are huge assets that will no doubt benefit ICRI.

Looking back over the first 25 years of ICRI technical activities and the organization's many accomplishments brings to mind ideas of expertise, commitment, practicality, enthusiasm, knowledge sharing, networking, and fun. Looking forward, each of the current 13 technical committees is busy working on new documents and updating existing ones, as well as performing other technical activities. There are new technologies to validate, guide specifications to complete, sustainability to incorporate, and safety awareness to highlight. The development of a joint ACI/ICRI guide to complement the new ACI 562-13, "Code Requirements for Evaluation, Repair, and Rehabilitation of Concrete Buildings," is a high-priority task at this time.

As of January 1, 2014, Fred Goodwin was appointed TAC Chair. In addition to previously serving on TAC, Fred is a very active member of ICRI (as well as several other industry organizations) and participates on several committees, which includes serving as the immediate Past Chair of ICRI Committee 320, Concrete Repair Materials and Methods. There is no doubt that ICRI technical activities will flourish under Goodwin's leadership.

Finally, if you have not already, please consider sharing your expertise and experience with other ICRI members by joining a technical committee, giving a presentation, writing an article for the *Concrete Repair Bulletin*, or submitting a project for award consideration. I am confident that the effort will be personally rewarding and satisfying, as well as a benefit to the overall concrete repair industry.