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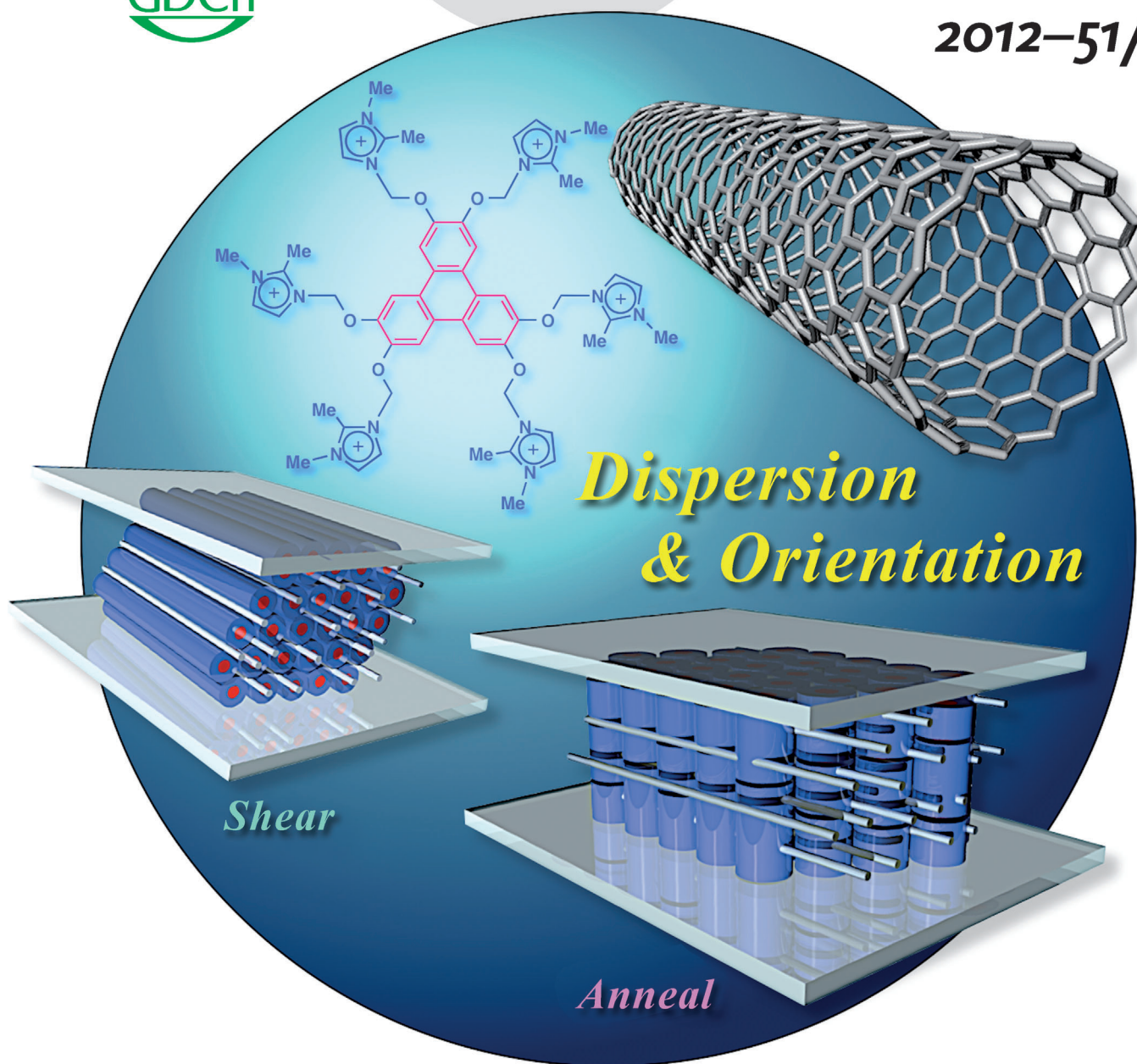
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A columnar ionic liquid crystal (LC) ...

... can effectively disperse carbon nanotubes, where LC columns spontaneously align homeotropically on a glass substrate. In their Communication on page 8490 ff., Y. Yamamoto, T. Aida, et al. show that when the composite is sheared, both nanotubes and LC columns align along the shear direction (left), and anisotropic electrical conduction is observed. When the sheared composite is annealed, only the LC columns align homeotropically (right).

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