



Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and Technology. Section A. Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

Publication details, including instructions for authors and
subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gmcl19>

Foreword

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Version of record first published: 27 Oct 2006.

To cite this article: Mark D. Hollingsworth & John R. Scheffer (1992): Foreword, Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and Technology. Section A. Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals, 211:1, vii-vii

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10587259208025799>

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FOREWORD

The International Conference on the Chemistry of the Organic Solid State (ICCOSS) was initiated in 1968, and has been held every 2–3 years since that time. The tenth in this series of conferences was held July 7–12, 1991, on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. In 1978, the last time ICCOSS was held in North America, solid-state organic chemistry was a completely different field from the one represented at ICCOSS X. At that time, for example, solid-state NMR was in its infancy, and no organic-based superconductors had been discovered. During the intervening years, the number of entries in the Cambridge Structural Database has more than tripled, and the number of scientists whose work is touched by the themes represented at ICCOSS has grown dramatically. Although solid-state organic chemistry cannot yet be considered a mature discipline, it is clear from these proceedings and from the work presented at the conference that great strides have been made toward that goal.

Because the field of solid-state organic chemistry has become so diverse, each of the most recent conferences has focused on a selected number of principal themes. At ICCOSS X, a number of general topics were covered, including optical properties of crystals (especially nonlinear effects and optical anomalies), nucleation and crystal growth, functional group interactions and crystal engineering, photochemistry in organized media, conductive and magnetic properties of organic solids and polymers, polymorphism and phase transitions, and new advances in solid-state spectroscopic and diffraction techniques. Beyond these major themes, however, it was clear throughout the conference that there is a growing emphasis on research in the rapidly expanding field of materials science.

The principal aims of the ICCOSS meetings have been to bring together workers from various subdisciplines and enable them to present new techniques and ideas, compare different approaches to common problems, and keep each other apprised of the progress in this exciting field. Our hope was that all of the conferees would leave the meeting with a number of new research ideas and directions. Another hope was that collaborative efforts would be fostered; such collaborations are especially important in this field since several techniques must often be used to solve a particular problem. In both of these endeavors, we believe that ICCOSS X was eminently successful.

Although the papers collected in this two-volume set of proceedings constitute only part of the work presented at ICCOSS X, we believe that they best represent current interests and trends in the field of solid-state organic chemistry. We thank the authors for the time and care that they put into their manuscripts, and we hope that these proceedings will stimulate even more scientists to attend ICCOSS XI, which will be held in Israel during the summer of 1993.

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