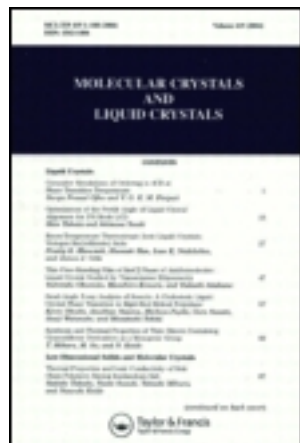


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### Guest Editor's Preface

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## GUEST EDITOR'S PREFACE

The International Liquid Crystal Conference (ILCC) returned to its birthplace, Kent, Ohio, USA, for the fifth time, after a gap of twenty years. The Local Organizing Committee worked very hard and drew upon the experience of those who were involved in organizing previous conferences here, including the very first ILCC. We are indebted to the members of the Local Organizing Committee, and many student and staff volunteers who devoted many hours for several months towards the success of this conference. Their efforts were rewarded by an extremely successful and enjoyable conference.

The International Advisory Board and the Scientific Committee deserve our appreciation for their help in the selection of outstanding researchers for the plenary and invited talks. In excess of 700 participants contributed over 800 plenary, invited, oral, and poster presentations in three parallel sessions. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for scientists from nearly forty countries and diverse disciplines to exchange scientific and technological ideas and to become familiar with the latest developments in the field of liquid crystals.

We would like to acknowledge financial support from Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, the National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, Samsung Electronics, and other generous sponsors whose names appear on page ix of this volume. Their support enabled us to provide financial aid to the needy, primarily in the form of registration fee waivers.

These proceedings include almost 300 papers describing experimental and theoretical aspects of the physics, chemistry, and applications of liquid crystals, and represent the wide variety of topics covered at the conference. The articles published in this and subsequent volumes were subject to the normal standards of scientific refereeing. The colleagues who refereed these papers deserve our special thanks for taking time and reviewing a large number of papers.

As Guest Editors, we thank all those who submitted their original high quality work for inclusion in these proceedings.

Satyendra Kumar, Chairman  
Daniele Finotello, Secretary  
Kent, Ohio, USA