

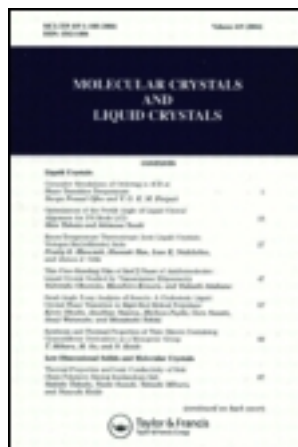
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# Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and Technology. Section A. Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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## Guest Editor's Foreword

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## GUEST EDITOR'S FOREWORD

This special issue covers the state of the art research on advanced materials and emerging technologies presented at the Fifth International Conference on Frontiers of Polymers and Advanced Materials held in Poznan, Poland in June 21-25, 1999. This conference follows the successful conferences held in Cairo, Egypt in 1997, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1995, in Jakarta, Indonesia in 1993 and in New Delhi, India in 1991. These conference have focussed on the most recent and important advanced materials, their science and technology and new business opportunities resulting from recent technological advances. As its predecessors, the conference held in Poznan, Poland was truly international with strong participation of 200 persons from 30 countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Lithuania, Malta, Moldavia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, and USA.

The Conference was combined with the NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Polymers and Composites for Special Applications.

The principal organizers of the Conference were:

Professor Paras N. Prasad – State University of New York at Buffalo, USA – International Chairperson

Professor Ryszard Kozlowski – Institute of Natural Fibres, Poznan, Poland National Chairperson

Professor François Kajzar – LETI-CEA (Technologies Avancees), Saclay, France – International Coordinator.

The stated goals of the conference were:

To highlight advances and new findings in the general area of polymers and advanced materials. To foster global collaboration between the USA, Poland, France and other nations in the general field of polymers, natural fibres and advanced materials. To promote the development of scientific infrastructure in this field among the different participating countries, especially in Eastern Europe. To create a basis for future long-term scientific exchanges between the USA and Poland and/or other countries. To induce Poland and other countries in Eastern Europe to move to advanced polymer/ceramic/natural fibre production via international cooperation.

Topics of the Conference were discussed in five parallel sessions:

1. Natural Fibres, Composites and Environmentally Friendly Materials: Polymers and composites based on cellulose-derived fibres for common use and special applications like protection against moisture, fire, biodegradation and UV degradation; utilization of waste resources, methods to improve performance of natural polymer-based materials for value-added products and techniques for the processing of these materials in environmentally friendly manner.

2. Nanostructured Materials, Nanoparticles and Nanocomposites: multifunctional and intelligent polymers and composites; techniques of fabrication and characterization of nanostructured materials, fields of applications.

3. Polymeric Materials and Composites for Electronics and Photonics: light emitting devices, photorefractive polymers, nonlinear optical materials; materials for information processing and storage, polymer lasers and amplifiers, liquid crystals and liquid crystalline polymers, materials for integrated optics.

4. Inorganic – Organic Hybrid Composites: sol-gel materials; ceramic fibres, polymers for protective coating and encapsulation.

5. Biocomposites and Biomimicry: polymers and composites as implants in body for structural members and as replacement for flexible tissues in reconstructive surgery.

In addition to the papers delivered during oral sessions (total of 119 papers) and posters presented during two poster sessions (total of 57 posters), invited plenary lectures on interdisciplinary topics were given by distinguished scientists and representatives of the U.S. Army and industries.

Results presented in the papers ranged from theoretical forecast for directions of polymer technology to the most recent achievements in the field of advanced polymers, including ultra-thin biosilk fibres of high strength, to problems concerning research collaboration between science and industry.

It is our hope that this publication will serve as a useful reference for researchers in academic, industrial and research institutes as well as for those interested in new business opportunities in the field of polymers, natural fibres and advanced materials.

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