



Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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Guest Editors' Preface

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Guest Editors' Preface

The biennial meeting of SICL is the traditional Italian site for presentation of the wide spectrum of scientific activities in the field of liquid crystals spanning from synthesis of new materials to structural properties, from interfacial phenomena to optical properties, from confined geometries to advanced photonic applications.

The meeting hosts chemists, physicists and engineers working in this field, providing a forum for young scientists to present their work and to interact with selected experts in the field, and a number of top level international scientists, presenting the most challenging and promising achievement in the field.

The 6th National Meeting, SICL 2004, was held at Hotel Continental Terme in Ischia, Italy, from June the 2nd to June the 5th, 2004: 80 registered participants, 9 prestigious international invited talks. Since several years it is a wise policy of the Italian Liquid Crystal Society to give space and opportunities to young scientists inside this meetings, and also this years has been characterized by a massive presence of young researcher.

Amongst the scientific subjects presented in Ischia, we want to underline the following that attracted a particular attention: new functionalized materials and especially new composites, enlarging the interest of the Society to the wider soft matter field, and LC based photonic devices.

The final program of SICL '04 included 9 invited talks, 20 oral talks and 40 poster presentations. Among these, 22 selected papers are presented in full in this special issue: they are original papers representing some of the scientific topics covered by the conference.

The published articles were subject to refereeing: the colleagues who refereed these papers deserve our gratitude for taking time and contributing to the quality of this issue.

We acknowledge full support by the Scientific Advisory Board and we recognize together with it the following additional and essential reasons for the conference success:

1. The time and location of the event: Ischia was a wonderful place.
2. The sponsoring Institutions listed at page ix that permitted, thanks to their financial support, the presence of many important

scientists and many young scientists, who could not have the possibility to attend SICL 2004 only with their own budget. In particular, we would like to thank Sergio La Torraca from Laser SLT, who helped a lot in most of local issues.

3. The conference site: Hotel Continental Terme and its staff have really proved in this occasion to be top class.
4. The Organizing Committee and the secretarial staff, Daniela D'Auria and Salvatore Verdoliva: few people but working hard before, during, and after the conference for trying to solve every problem coming out.

Finally, we acknowledge this journal, *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals*, and its chief editor, Prof. Mortimer Labes, for their traditional support helping in maintaining Liquid Crystal research alive.

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