



Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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Foreword

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Foreword

The papers appearing in this issue of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* represent some of the communications presented at the ECLC - 9th European Conference on Liquid Crystals, held in Lisbon from 2 to 6 July 2007.

The past forty years have seen a tremendous growth in liquid crystal research and applications, now spanning several fields of science and technology. From modern information technology to the most fundamental structures of life, such as the cell membrane, liquid crystals are everywhere. Liquid crystals are at the forefront of the current development and convergence of several technologies and are targeted at an unprecedented range of applications. Flexible displays and electronic paper, for example, are forecast to produce a major impact on our personal and business lives, and a revolution in our communication and educational systems.

We are indebted to the International Advisory Board and the Scientific Committee for their help and contribution to the success of this conference. About 250 scientists from 38 countries registered and presented over 300 communications. Thanks to their effort, the purpose of the conference has been achieved.

Having the conference facilities of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation as the site for the 9th ECLC was of great significance. It provided a peaceful and self-contained environment which contributed very much to the high level of participation observed throughout the conference.

The 9th ECLC was sponsored by the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the New University of Lisbon, and supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology. Further support was provided by Informaworld and this journal (Taylor & Francis Group) among others. We are very grateful to these institutions.

Last but not least, our colleagues of the Local Organizing Committee and those who refereed the papers submitted for publication in these proceedings deserve our gratitude for taking their time and contributing in different ways to the success of this conference. We

also thank the authors of those papers and all other participants for their invaluable scientific contributions.

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