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Foreword

The present issue of *Molecular Crystals Liquid Crystals* is devoted to the Proceedings of the 13th Topical Meeting on the Optics of Liquid Crystals (OLC2009) held at the Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture in Erice, Italy from September 28 to October 2, 2009.

OLC2009 continued a successful series of biennial appointments which allow theoretical and experimental scientists active in the field of Optics of Liquid Crystals to meet and discuss their recent work. The topical meeting has provided a forum for the international liquid crystal community to present and review the most recent developments in the field.

The participants, for a total number exceeding one hundred, came from 23 countries all over the world, the larger national group was, of course, from Italy but numerous groups were also from USA and Poland.

The scientific program consisted of 4 plenary lectures, 16 invited talks, 35 oral presentations and 75 poster contributions and it was developed during 4 working days.

In invited talks, as well as in oral and poster contributions, recent research works were presented, ranging from General Optics of Liquid Crystals, Nonlinear Optics, Surfaces and Interfaces, Composites and Nanodispersions, Liquid Crystal Photonics, Dyes, Photochemistry, Novel Phenomena in Liquid Crystals, New Displays and Microdisplays Applications, Liquid Crystal Sensing and Metrology, Design and Synthesis of Liquid Crystal Materials with novel optical properties, Manufacturing and Technology of LC devices, Liquid Crystals in Defense and Security Systems, New Hybrid Materials (organic/inorganic, nanoparticles, artificial materials).

Some of the original contributions presented at the meeting were submitted for the Proceedings and refereed according to the standard procedure of this Journal.

The successful organization of the meeting was only possible thanks to the help of many people and we would like to mention the members of the Advisory Committee and of the Organizing Committee, and the people of the E. Majorana Centre in Erice.

We also acknowledge financial contributions from the Italian Liquid Crystal Society, the Air Force Research Laboratory (USA), National Institute for Nuclear Physics (Bologna, Italy) and Taylor and Francis.

The success of the OLC2009 serves undoubtedly as an encouragement for the Advisory Committee of OLC and its President Nelson Tabiryan to continue organizing events of these interesting series which started more than 20 years ago with ever growing participation and enthusiasm.

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