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Preface

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Preface

The *23rd International Liquid Crystal Conference (ILCC 2010)* was held at the Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, from July 11–16, 2010. The conference was organized by the Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, under the auspices of the International Liquid Crystal Society (ILCS) and the Polish Liquid Crystal Society. Over 680 scientists from 45 countries around the world gathered for the conference. Among the participants were 216 students.

When the conference began on Sunday, more than 130 participants attended seven extraordinary tutorial lectures given by internationally known experts in different fields of liquid crystals: Wim de Jeu, Sven T. Lagerwall, Geoffrey Luckhurst, Peter Palffy-Muhoray, Tomasz R. Woliński, Shin-Tson Wu, and Claudio Zannoni.

Five full days of the scientific program included five plenary talks given by Peter Collings, Ewa Górecka, Hirotugu Kikuchi, Tom Lubensky and Ivan Smalyukh. Two senior lectures were presented by Dietrich Demus and Atsuo Fukuda. The conference also included 44 invited lectures and 136 oral talks which covered a large spectrum of topics. The plenary and invited talks were devoted to new trends in research and applications of LCs. In addition to the traditionally relevant topics, the following subjects attracted considerable attention: Blue Phases and Kerr Effect; Meta-materials based on LCs; LCs in nano-science; Application of LCs in microwave technology; Photonics and LCDs; Dielectric spectroscopy of LCs; and Liquid Crystals in Teaching. Combined, there were 188 oral presentations and 684 posters. An excellent atmosphere prevailed, provoking lively discussions at lectures and poster sessions that continued, in small groups, late into the night in the magic of Kraków. The unique atmosphere of the conference was recognized and very much appreciated by all the participants.

The founder of ILCCs, Professor Glenn H. Brown, was fond of saying: “LCs bring us together.” We hope *ILCC 2010*—with its articulated theme of *Across borders and multiscales*—fulfilled Dr. Brown’s ideal and that the selection of available presentations delivered during the conference and presented in this volume will convey to the readership at least a sampling of the excellent science and diverse perspectives of the meeting. Titles of papers presented at the conference and published before are included at the end of the last *Volume of the Proceedings*.

More than 50 participants assisted in the reviewing process. On behalf of the organizers of the conference, we would like to express our gratitude to our reviewers for their hard work and dedication. We greatly thank all of the participants for attending and sharing their knowledge with our community. And, last but not least, we extend heartfelt thanks to all our contributors to the *Proceedings*.

Guest Editors:

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