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## Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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### Guest Editors' Preface

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## Guest Editors' Preface

The papers included in the present issue of *Molecular Crystals Liquid Crystals* are some of the contributions presented at two meetings held in Cetraro, Italy from 4 to 8 July 2010. The first one was the IX National Conference of the Italian Liquid Crystal Society (SICL), a biennial meeting which 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. As usual it gathers chemists, physicists and engineers working in this field, providing a forum for young scientists who are encouraged to present their work and interact with selected experts in the field. The second meeting was the fifth Italian-Japanese Workshop on Liquid Crystals which continues a recent but well established tradition of this biennial joint event started in 2002 in Erice (Italy) and followed by meetings in Tsu (Japan, 2004), Castiglione (Italy, 2006) and Nara (Japan, 2008). The purpose of these bilateral workshops, organised by the Italian Liquid Crystal Society (SICL) and by the Japanese Liquid Crystal Society (JLCS) is to bring together members of the Italian and Japanese liquid crystal communities in order to present and discuss recent results in the research efforts undertaken by these two communities. The format of the workshop was based on a number of keynote talks of leading Italian and Japanese scientists and all the participants had the opportunity to present their latest works as posters. The two workshops brought together 74 researchers from six different countries, apart from Italian and Japanese people. The papers presented here were selected on the basis of the normal refereeing procedure to the usual high standards required for publication in *Molecular Crystals Liquid Crystals*.

Daniela Pucci  
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(Guest Editors)