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Guest Editors' Foreword

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Guest Editors' Foreword

The 11th European Conference on Liquid Crystals was held in Maribor, Slovenia, from February 6 to February 11, 2011. This is the second time that the conference was organized in Slovenia, the first time being the 1995 Bovec meeting. A comparison of the topics covered immediately reveals the vibrant dynamics of liquid-crystal research, which is increasingly more connected to colloids, polymers, metamaterials, biophysics, nanoscience, and photonics. Especially commendable is the initiative of the organizers to invite contributions on liquid crystals in extreme conditions and on liquid crystals in science education, thereby further expanding the scope of the field. More than 280 researchers from all over the world participated at the conference, and a total of 237 papers were presented either as invited or contributed talks or as posters.

Assisted by the experts on the International Advisory Board and the Scientific Committee, the local hosts—a small but propulsive group of researchers based mostly at the University of Maribor and led by Samo Kralj, Nataša Vaupotič, and Mojca Čepič—organized a productive and a very pleasant meeting. The conference was supported by the Slovenian Research Agency, the City of Maribor, Energetika Maribor, Dravske Elektrarne Maribor, the Jozef Stefan Institute, Enterprise Europe Network, and EPL. In addition, we wish to thank the following for their contribution to the success of this conference: European Office of Aerospace Research and Development, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, United States Air Force Research Laboratory (www.london.af.mil). Also acknowledged is the support of Taylor & Francis, the publisher of these proceedings.

The proceedings of the 11th European Conference on Liquid Crystals include 29 peer-reviewed papers covering a range of topics discussed in Maribor. We thank the authors for contributing to this volume, and we appreciate the work done by the anonymous reviewers whom we asked for recommendation and advice.

Guest Editors
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