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## Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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## Foreword

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## **Foreword**

The present issue of Molecular Crystals Liquid Crystals collects the proceedings of the 2nd School of the Italian Liquid Crystal Society (SICL)—18th Course of International School of Liquid Crystals held in Erice (Italy) from the 3rd to the 10th of July, 2011.

The SICL Schools are aimed to Ph.D. students and young Post-Docs from Physics, Chemistry, Material Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering who are interested in widening their knowledge in the fields of liquid crystals and related fields with particular focus on the connections with nanoscience and nanotechnology.

The second SICL School, titled "Liquid crystal nanostructures and self-assembling: from organic electronics to metamaterials", has provided a state-of-the-art review of the rapidly evolving experimental, theoretical and computational techniques, which interface novel liquid crystals and nanocomposite molecular organizations to the emerging fields of organic electronics and metamaterials obtained bottom up through self-assembly. The School lectures were held during 6 working days by 15 world experts and first class lecturers: P. Barois, V. Domenici, B. Donnio, J. Emsley, D. Evans, F. Finotello, A. Golemme, R. Kamien, I.C. Khoo, G. Mehl, M. O'Neal, G. Strangi, E. Virga, C. Zannoni and S. Žumer.

This time the School gathered over 70 young chemists, physicists and engineers working in the field, providing also a forum for young scientists who could present their work in the form of posters and had ample opportunities to interact with the lecturers.

Some of the original contributions presented at the meeting by the participants were submitted for the Proceedings and refereed according to the standard procedure of Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals. The contributions cover a wide range of aspects of liquid crystal research, from synthesis and physico-chemical characterization to novel technological applications, comprising both experimental and theoretical investigations.

The successful organization of the meetings was only possible thanks to the help of many people. In particular we would like to mention the precious collaboration of the other members of the scientific committee: G. Assanto, G. De Luca, G. Strangi, and E. Virga and of our collaborators, in particular I. Miglioli We also acknowledge financial contributions from the Italian Liquid Crystal Society, Taylor and Francis, European Office of Aerospace Research and Development—Air Force Office of Scientific Research. Last but not least we thank E. Majorana Centre staff for the essential help.

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