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Foreword

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Foreword

The present issue of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* is devoted to the proceedings of the 10th Conference of the Italian Liquid Crystal Society (SICL)—held in Rome from the 21st to the 23rd of June, 2012.

The SICL Conference is the traditional meeting held every two years during which the most significant results of the Italian research on liquid crystals are presented. Most of the contributions of this year edition of the conference were related to nanoscience and nanotechnology aspects of liquid crystals.

The main topics of the conference were in particular on both theoretical and experimental aspects, from basic to applied research of liquid crystals. Most contributions of these Proceedings include synthesis of new materials and their structural and physical properties. Several contributions are also related to the photonic and optoelectronic applications of liquid crystals and composites.

The conference gathered more than 100 researchers with different scientific backgrounds, chemists, physicists, and engineers, who contribute to the typical interdisciplinary aspect of the Italian liquid crystals community. Furthermore, during the conference sessions most of the presentations were delivered by young researchers, Ph.D. students, and young Post-Docs from different Italian universities and research institutions, who had the opportunity to present their most recent results.

The successful organization of the meeting was only possible thanks to the help of many people. In particular, I would like to mention the precious collaboration of the other members of the scientific committee: Rita Asquini, Gaetano Assanto, Giuseppina De Luca, Paolo Pasini, Giuseppe Strangi, Claudio Zannoni, and Epifanio Virga. Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the collaboration of Romeo Beccherelli as guest editor with Asquini, Assanto, and myself. I also acknowledge the financial contributions from the Italian Liquid Crystal Society, Taylor and Francis, and Sapienza University of Rome.

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Chairman of the 10th Italian Liquid Crystal Society Conference