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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 and Liquid Crystals* is devoted to the proceedings of the first Italian-Brazilian Workshop on Liquid Crystals held in Erice (Italy) from August 26 to 30, 2012.

The meeting was organized by the Italian Liquid Crystal Society (SICL) in collaboration with the Brazilian scientists working on liquid crystals and within the framework of the successful series of courses of the International School of Liquid Crystals. The main purpose of the Workshop was that of bringing together some of the most active members of the Italian and Brazilian communities working on these fascinating and important soft materials for a presentation and discussion of recent results in this continuously developing field. It is hoped that the Workshop will enhance exchange and scientific cooperation between Italy and Brazil in the most innovative areas of liquid crystal science and technology.

The format of the workshop was based on a number of keynote talks of leading Italian and Brazilian scientists. In addition there was the opportunity for the participants to present their latest results as posters.

The presentations covered a 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 comprising both experimental and theoretical investigations.

Some of the original contributions presented at the meeting were submitted for the proceedings and refereed according to the standard procedure of this journal.

The successful organization of the meeting was only possible thanks to the help of many people and we would like to mention in particular the members of the organizing committee: G. Assanto, G. De Luca, G. Strangi, and E. Virga of the Italian Liquid Crystals Society and A. J. Palangana, A. M. Figueiredo Neto, F. J. Sampaio Moraes, M. Simões Filho, M. L. Lyra, A. Pellegrini Mammana, and L. Queiroz do Amaral from the Brazilian side. We also acknowledge the essential help of the E. Majorana staff and in particular F. Ruggiu, P. Aceto and A. Noto.

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