



Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

ISSN: 1542-1406 (Print) 1563-5287 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gmcl20>

Foreword

To cite this article: (2014) Foreword, *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals*, 603:1, 1-2, DOI: [10.1080/15421406.2014.978637](https://doi.org/10.1080/15421406.2014.978637)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15421406.2014.978637>



Published online: 15 Dec 2014.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



Article views: 18



View related articles [↗](#)



View Crossmark data [↗](#)

Foreword

This special issue of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* contains selected papers presented at the XIIth International Conference on “Frontiers of Polymers and Advanced Materials (12th ICFPAM): *Emerging Technologies and Business Opportunities*” held at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, 8–13 December 2013. The conference was a sequel of the preceding, very successful series of international meetings organized in different locations around the world, such as: Pretoria, South Africa, 22–27 May 2011, Santiago de Chile (Chile, 2009), Krakow (Poland, 2007), Cancun (Mexico, 2005), Bucharest (Romania, 2003), Pernambuco (Brazil, 2001), Poznan (Poland, 1999), Cairo (Egypt, 1997), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia, 1995), Jakarta (Indonesia, 1993) and in New Delhi (India, 1991).

The main conference objectives are:

- To highlight advances and new findings in polymers and advanced materials and their impact on new technologies;
- To facilitate technology transfer and new business opportunities by bringing together representatives from academia, research centers, industries and business;
- To foster international collaborations and joint ventures;
- To facilitate the growth of private sector business;
- To promote the growth of scientific and technical infrastructure in the field of polymers and advanced materials technologies.

According to the well-established tradition, the Conference provided a great forum for discussion on the most relevant topics in polymer science, advanced materials and new technologies, and presented a truly multidisciplinary scientific programme, bringing together leading international scientists, engineers, top-level industrial management and business executives. It included plenary and keynote talks, tutorials, invited lectures and contributed talks. Two poster sessions well also organized. All major topics of current and prospective interest in polymer science, advanced materials and technologies and their practical applications, broadly covering the following main themes were addressed:

- From synthesis to advanced materials
- Nano-scale and nano-structured materials and devices
- Biomaterials and biopolymers
- Organic based photonics and electronics materials
- Composites and hybrid materials

The conference benefited from a wide international attendance, gathering over 500 participants coming from about 40 countries, representing almost all continents.

We were fortunate to welcome some of the most outstanding scientists in the fields of macromolecular sciences, materials sciences and technology, including the plenary speakers: Distinguished Professor Dan Shechtman – Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2011; Professor Jean M. J. Fréchet – Vice President for Research at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology; Distinguished Professor Paul S. Weiss – Fred Kavli Chair in Nanosystems Sciences at UCLA; Professor Paras N. Prasad – SUNY Distinguished Professor at University at Buffalo; and Professor Takuzo Aida – Director of the Riken

Advanced Science Institute and Professor at the University of Tokyo, in addition to 13 distinguished scientists as keynotes and over 120 invited speakers. The range of articles in this special issue of the Journal provides a taste of the interdisciplinarity of science presented at the conference.

We wish to thank various institutions, agencies, exhibitors and corporations which provided support for the conference and more particularly Office of Naval Research Global (ONRG, Tokyo), International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) (www.iupac.org), Taylor & Francis Group (www.taylorandfrancisgroup.com), University of Auckland and McDiarmid Institute, New Zealand.

We would like to thank warmly the conference Honorary Chair Prof. Paras N. Prasad from University of Buffalo, United States, who started this series of conferences and organized very successful earlier meetings, for his continuous interest, support and help in its organization. Thanks are also due to the conference co-chairs: Prof. R. Kozłowski, Institute for Engineering of Polymer Materials and Dyes, Toruń and FAO/Escorena, Poland; Prof. K.-S. Lee, Hannam University, Taejeon, Korea; International Coordinator Dr. J. Grote from Wright Patterson Labs, USA; International Secretary Dr. F. Charra from CEA Saclay, France. Thanks are also due to the members of the International Program Committee, chaired by Dr. G. Bidan from CEA Grenoble, and the International Advisory Committee, chaired by Prof. A. Meghea from University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest, for the helpful suggestions in the selection of plenary, keynote and invited speakers, as well as oral and poster contributions. The success of this conference is in large measure due to their inputs.

Special thanks are due to the Local Organizing Committee for its great work and commitment for the conference organization, offering not only an outstanding scientific program but also excellent conference facilities for both presentations and associated discussions. As it became also a tradition of this conference, the social program at the conference was equally entertaining from the Welcome Function, a public talk by Prof. Dan Shechtman to the conference dinner, and a half-day conference trip to the Auckland's dramatic West Coast. These also contributed significantly to the success of the conference and gave the participants a unique opportunity to taste and appreciate to the fullest this beautiful and fantastic country.

The next conference will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, 30 March–2 April 2015. This will be the third time that the conference has been organized in Africa.

Guest Editors:

Prof. Jadranka Travas-Sejdic
Prof. Paul Kilmartin
New Zealand

Prof. Francois Kajzar
Prof. Ileana Rau
University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania

Auckland, Bucharest, July 2014

We wish to thank the Office of Naval Research Global (ONRG) for their contribution to the success of this conference (contract no. FA2386-13-1007). ONRG support is not intended to express or imply endorsement by the U.S. Federal Government.