



Foreword

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Foreword

The present issue of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* is devoted to the proceedings of the 5th Workshop on Liquid Crystals for Photonics, held in Erice, Italy, September 2–7, 2014 as the 20th course of the International School of Liquid Crystals.

The Workshop on Liquid Crystals for Photonics has proved to be also in this edition a forum of first class international scientists, in particular chemists, physicists and engineers, involved in photonic applications of liquid crystals.

The workshop has included invited speakers from renowned academic and research institutions coming from several countries, with the aim of encompassing the state of the art in photonics using liquid crystals and composite materials. A poster session was also organized to allow especially young researchers to present their results.

The workshop dealt with a number of topics including novel liquid crystals and self-organized nanocomposites for photonics, optical properties and defects in cholesteric blue phases, nanostructured liquid crystalline metamaterials, linear and nonlinear propagation phenomena in liquid crystals, liquid crystal lasers, photo-alignment and photo-patterning, liquid crystal based integrated optics, advanced flat panel liquid crystal displays, holography and 3D image systems, optical trapping and biophotonics using liquid crystals, modeling and numerical simulation techniques of liquid crystal photonic devices. This issue collects a selection of the contributions presented at the workshop.

We thank all the speakers and participants for their active involvement in the scientific and social activities that made the meeting a very lively and stimulating one. The successful organization of the meeting was, however, 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 organizing committee: Rita Asquini, Gaetano Assanto, Romeo Beccherelli, Luca Martini and Massimo Mazzetta. Furthermore we would like to acknowledge the financial contributions from the Italian Liquid Crystal Society and Sapienza University of Rome.

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