

This article was downloaded by:

On: 16 January 2011

Access details: *Access Details: Free Access*

Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



Liquid Crystals Today

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713681230>

NOBEL PRIZE FOR DE GENNES

D. A. Dunmur

To cite this Article Dunmur, D. A.(1991) 'NOBEL PRIZE FOR DE GENNES', *Liquid Crystals Today*, 1: 3, 1 – 2

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/13583149108628579

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13583149108628579>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Full terms and conditions of use: <http://www.informaworld.com/terms-and-conditions-of-access.pdf>

This article may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The accuracy of any instructions, formulae and drug doses should be independently verified with primary sources. The publisher shall not be liable for any loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

LIQUID CRYSTALS

Today

Vol. 1, No. 3 November 1991

Newsletter of the International Liquid Crystal Society

NOBEL PRIZE FOR DE GENNES

Dateline: 16 October 1991, 12.30 pm — from Bengt Stebler, Sweden... *less than one hour ago the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decided to award the 1991 Nobel Prize in Physics to Pierre-Gilles de Gennes...*

This was the message that informed the international liquid crystal community that de Gennes' outstanding contributions to the understanding of liquid crystals and polymers had been recognised by the award of the highest accolade in science.

Thus PG de Gennes joins that most select group of Physics Nobel Laureates, whose achievements trace the development of physical science since the first Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded in 1901 to Röntgen (the discoverer of X-rays). Much will be written over the coming months about de Gennes' work, and in this issue we publish (p3) a tribute by one of his colleagues. There will be immense satisfaction from all liquid crystal scientists throughout the world for this public recognition of de Gennes' masterly exploration of liquid crystal and polymer physics. Many will remember the exciting days of the 1970s when it seemed that every liquid crystal paper contained a new and significant discovery. It is remarkable that even today the sense of excitement and extraordinary uncovering of more and



more facets of liquid crystal science has continued, and still new discoveries are frequently prefaced by "as de Gennes predicted....".

The citation from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences refers to de Gennes' discovery "that methods developed for studying order phenomena in single systems can be generalised to more complex forms of matter, in particular to liquid crystals and polymers."

Members of the ILCS will be familiar with the contributions to many aspects of liquid crystal science made by the Orsay group formed by de Gennes in the 1960s. His inspired scientific leadership has continued, embracing the College de France and ESPCI in Paris and other collaborating institutions, and has resulted in notable achievements in the areas of polymer dynamics and other soft disordered systems.

Some of the Nobel judges referred to Pierre-Gilles de Gennes as "the Isaac Newton of our time". This supreme compliment reflects the remarkable insight that de Gennes has brought to the interpretation of a variety of physical phenomena. It also recognises the "new physics" of the late 20th century. Thus with de Gennes' help we can now begin to understand the properties of spaghetti, toothpaste, cosmetics and superglue — a far cry from particle physics and cosmology, but presenting equal challenges.

In This Issue:

	Page
Journal Review & New Books Information	2
People in the News	3
Meeting Reports — FLC91 in Colorado	4
— MIT Chandrasekhar Symposium	5
Miscellany and Logo Competition	6
14th International Liquid Crystal Conference at Pisa, 1992	7
Forthcoming Meetings	8
List of Regional Editors	8

D A Dunmur, Editor