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VIIIth International Topical Meeting on Optics of Liquid Crystals (OLC'99)

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Over the past fifteen years the International Topical Conference on Optics of Liquid Crystals (OLC) has provided a stimulating and interdisciplinary forum for the presentation of the best new work in the field of liquid crystals and related materials. The *VIIIth International Topical Meeting on Optics of Liquid Crystals* was held at the hotel Wyndham Palmas del Mar Resort and Villas in Humacao, Puerto Rico 27 September–1 October 1999. Eighty-five scientists from 17 different countries around the globe (Asia, Europe, North and South America) came to Puerto Rico to present their scientific work and to discuss all the modern aspects of Optics of Liquid Crystals. As a result 21 invited talks, 32 contributed oral presentations and 51 posters were presented. New results at the forefront of research in the optics of liquid crystals were presented by leading experts in the field. Invited talks given by N. Clark (USA), F. Derrien (France), B. Jerome (Netherlands), R. Kamien (USA), I.-C. Khoo (USA), L. Komitov, (Sweden), T. Lubensky (USA), S. Marino (Japan), I. Musevich (Slovenia), Y. Shen (USA), K. Singer (USA), G. Sinha

MEETING REPORT

VIIIth International Topical Meeting on Optics of Liquid Crystals (OLC'99)

27 September-1 October 1999

Palmas del Mar, Humacao,
Puerto Rico, USA

Report by Marc Warengem,
University of Artois, France

(USA), H. Skupin (Germany), R. Stannarius (Germany), R. L. Sutherland (USA), B. Taheri (USA), Y. Tabe (Japan), C. Umeton (Italy), D. Weitz (USA), S. Zilker (Germany), and S. Zumer (Slovenia) covered different important topics such as chiral interactions, surface vibrational spectroscopy, time resolved FTIR, holograms in PDLs, lasing in liquid crystals, quadrupolar molecular nonlinear

optics, organic photorefractive systems, optical solitons, different aspects of behaviour, properties and applications of chiral smectic liquid crystals, photo-initiated reorientational dynamics, electro-optic effects in LC films, wave generation in two-dimensional LCs and others.

Besides its high scientific level, the OLC meetings are famous for their informal atmosphere, stimulating discussions and exchange of ideas. OLC'99 was a continuation of this tradition. The excellent location for OLC'99 in Palmas del Mar Resort, which is known as a paradise on the east coast of Puerto Rico located right on the Caribbean Sea, was encouraging for both science and leisure. The facilities, cultural and social events and organization of the conference were exemplary, and all this taken together made OLC'99 a very useful and enjoyable meeting.

The Advisory Board has expressed congratulations to the chairman and his team for the efficiency of the organization. The board decided to keep the OLC series as it is: a convivial and high scientific level conference. It has successfully been established as the most important conference on Optics of Liquid Crystals and this will continue through the next OLC meeting which will be held 2001 in the Naples area, Italy, organized by Professor G. Abbate from the University of Naples.

