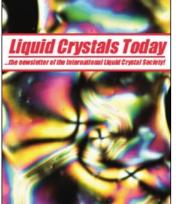
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Editorial

Despite the remaining difficulties with the *Liquid Crystals Today* website not automatically directing you to the newest issue of the journal, I sincerely hope that you enjoyed the topical diversity and timeliness of the contributions of the last issue. I hope to be able to regularly provide you with the same in the future.

This issue features a research article on the formation of liquid crystal phases of nucleic acids. In itself it is not a completely novel topic, but this paper investigates not just any DNA or RNA, but very specific complementary sequences of short oligomers. Giuliano Zanchetta, the author of this paper, was one of the Glen Brown award winners at last year's International Liquid Crystal Conference held in Jeju, Korea.

We also have a number of conference reports, ranging from national to international meetings, from predominantly research-oriented meetings to the latest on applications and R&D. Thanks to Yoishi Takanishi, Tony Jakli, Alexey Eremin, and Jong-Ho Hong for providing us with reports and insights that keep the community informed about what is going on in different parts of the world, as well as keeping us up to date on different aspects of liquid crystal research and application developments, in addition to matters concerning competing aspects of technology. I believe that the present reports make it quite clear that liquid crystal research is strong and striving worldwide, with new topics being explored and novel applications being investigated.

Also in this issue there is a review of a recently published book related to our subject. Thanks to Sharon Jewel for her views on the introductory text on 'Polarised Light in Liquid Crystals and Polymers' by Toralf Scharf.

At last, as you may have seen in the news section already, but nevertheless it should be repeated here, congratulations to Noel Clark for being awarded the 2009 *Freedericksz medal* of the Russian Liquid Crystal Society for his seminal contributions to the field of liquid crystal research.

Likewise, I hope that you join me in congratulating Professor Sadashiva, who was awarded the *G. W. Gray medal* of the British Liquid Crystal Society for internationally leading contributions in the field of liquid crystals.

I have also a news item in my own right. I was awarded the 2009 *Cyril Hilsum medal* of the British Liquid Crystal Society for overall contributions to liquid crystal science and technology.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Professors Clark and Sadashiva for their welldeserved awards, recognising their continuing international leadership in scientific contributions to our research field over many years.

Thanks again to all of the contributors to this issue of our society journal, and for the others ... please consider doing the same by contacting me (Ingo.Dierking@Manchester.ac.uk) about possibilities to contribute scientifically, or make your views known on different issues.

But for now, enjoy the latest issue.

Ingo Dierking