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## Liquid Crystals Today

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## European Conference on Liquid Crystals

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# Meeting Reports

## European Conference on Liquid Crystals

5-10 March, 1995

Bovec, Slovenia

Martin Čopič

**F**rom 5 to 10 March, 1995 the European Conference on Liquid Crystals (ECLC95) was held in Bovec, Slovenia. The Conference was organized by the liquid crystal group at the J. Stefan Institute and Department of Physics of the University of Ljubljana, with Martin Čopič as chairman and Igor Muševič as scientific secretary. The Conference was the third in the series of the European Liquid Crystal Conferences; the others were held in Courmayeur, Italy in 1991, and in Flims, Switzerland in 1993. These biennial conferences continue the tradition of the European Winter Conferences and provide an international forum to enhance the exchange of scientific ideas and technological advances in the field of thermotropic and lyotropic liquid crystals and their applications.

The Conference was attended by almost 200 participants from most European countries, the USA and Brazil. The contributions were arranged in eight major areas: new materials; electro-optic effects and devices; ferroelectric and antiferroelectric liquid crystals; lyotropics and other self-assembling systems; phase transitions, molecular dynamics; defects, pattern formation and instabilities; surfaces and confined systems. There were 5 plenary lectures, 27 invited talks and around 160 posters.

In the plenary lectures, J.W. Doane spoke on 'Modified and Stabilized Cholesteric Textures for Flat-Panel Displays', U. Seifert on 'Conformations of Fluid Membranes', N. A. Clark on 'Phase Behaviour of Liquid Crystals in Silica Aerogels', H.R. Brand on 'Pattern Formation and Nonlinear Dynamics in Liquid Crystals', and J. Prost on 'What Changes in the Description of Membranes when Active Processes are Included'. In the invited lectures P. Palffy-Muhoray, L.M. Blinov, G. Abbate and S.T. Lagerwall discussed optical nonlinearities in liquid crystals. C.W. Garland, L. Benguigui, J.P. Marcerou, G. Durand, and I. Dozov lectured on ferroelectric and twist grain boundary smectic phases, and A. Jakli and V.L. Lorman on ferroelectric phases. F. Leslie had a lecture on



Professor Slobodan Zumer introduces Plenary Lecturer, Professor Bill Doane from the Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University.

hydrodynamics of biaxial nematics. I. Furo and P. Laggner talked on lyotropic systems and A. Buka and J.B. Fournier on nonlinear pattern formation, G. Kothe on biological systems, K. Praefcke on new discotic materials, and A. Halperin on liquid crystal polymers. Among the contributed papers, the emphasis on surface phenomena and effects of confinement of different liquid crystal phases in silica aerogels, porous glasses, and polymer matrices was notable.

Selected Conference contributions will be published in the journal of *Liquid Crystals*.

The International Advisory Board held a meeting on 6 March and entrusted the organization of the next conference to Prof. R. Dabrowski and Prof. J. Zmija of Poland. It will be held in 1997 at Zakopana, Poland.



Conference Chairman Professor Martin Čopič welcoming delegates at the opening reception.