

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>

Simple thoughts about the role of liquid crystals inspired by the liquid crystal sessions at the APS March Meeting 2009

Antal Jakli^a

^a Kent State University, Kent, USA

To cite this Article Jakli, Antal(2009) 'Simple thoughts about the role of liquid crystals inspired by the liquid crystal sessions at the APS March Meeting 2009', *Liquid Crystals Today*, 18: 2, 57 – 58

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/13583140903154997

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13583140903154997>

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.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Simple thoughts about the role of liquid crystals inspired by the liquid crystal sessions at the APS March Meeting 2009

Antal Jakli
Kent State University, Kent, USA



The American Physical Society 2009 March Meeting was held from 15 to 20 March in Pittsburgh, PA with around 8000 participants. Out of the 1066 sessions, three were devoted exclusively to liquid crystals (LCs) with 41 12-minute talks, predominantly from Kent State University (22) followed by six talks from Georgia Tech and three from the University of Colorado. The rest of the talks were distributed between 15 other (predominantly US) institutions. In addition, there were dozens of talks related to LCs, but scheduled in other sessions, such 'Elastomers and

Gels', 'Biomaterials', etc. This shows that LC materials and their physical properties have become an integral part of the entire physical sciences, and that there is no longer any need to spend time giving long explanations on the basic structures that made it previously impossible to squeeze a LC related study into a 10+2-minute talk.

Concerning the topics, most talks (27) were related to nematic materials with 10 talks on bent-core materials, followed by elastomers (6), chromonics (4) and tetrapods (4). Only five lectures were devoted to smectic LCs, which could be due to the sparse participation from the University of Colorado. Although non-conventional LCs, such as bent-cores, tetrapods and chromonics, are not yet widespread in the entire condensed matter community, I am pretty sure that in a few years time they will also appear in other sessions' talks.

As usual, the presentations were mainly given by PhD students and postdoctorates, in general at quite high level. Most of the students not only kept the time and expressed themselves clearly, but also were able to answer the questions posed by the audience and chairmen. Although I do not have historical statistics about the gender distribution of the presenters, I have a feeling that the number of female presenters was higher this year than in previous years, which is encouraging to see for the future.



Figure 1. Kent State University student Vianney Gimenez answers a question asked by the session chair, Peter Collings. (Photo courtesy of Peter Salamon.)

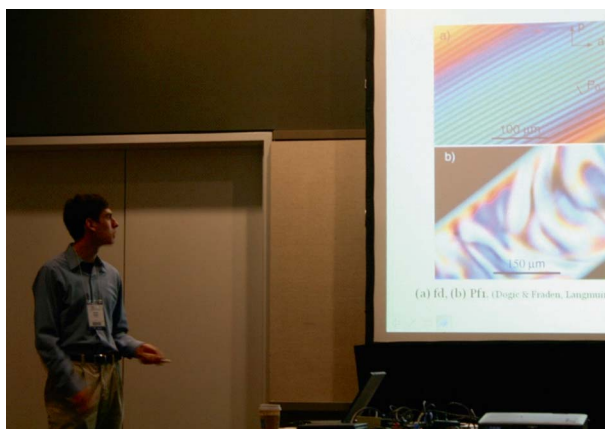


Figure 2. Daniel Berrer from Brandeis University talks about liquid crystals formed by viruses. (Photo courtesy of Ingo Dierking.)



Figure 3. Kent State University student Nick Diorio gives a talk on the rheology of materials of T-shaped molecules provided by Carsten Tschierske from the Martin Luther University in Halle, Germany. (Photo courtesy of Peter Salamon.)

Among the individual talks (obviously excluding those I was involved with), I especially liked the presentations of Tanya Ostapenko on ‘High magnetic field induced birefringence in lyotropic chromonic liquid crystals’ and Elizabeth Matsamoto’s ‘The taming of the screw: Nonlinear interactions in smectic liquid crystals’. Of course, this choice is very subjective, and in general I was pleased to see how well prepared and sharp the presenting students were.

This engagement and enthusiasm of young scientists in LC related research will guarantee the long-term importance and vital role of LC science in the general field of the physics of condensed materials.