



# Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and Technology. Section A. Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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## Guest Editor's Preface

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## GUEST EDITOR'S PREFACE

This issue is devoted to papers presented at the 8th Symposium on Unconventional Photoactive Systems (UPS) that was held at the New Public Hall in Nara, Japan, August 25–29, 1997. Previous UPS symposia were held in Mitwitz (1982), Cleveland (1985), Schloss Elmau (1987), Almaden (1989), Okazaki (1991), Leuven (1993), and Stanford (1995). 162 participants from 10 countries attended the 1997 symposium.

The conference has become an interdisciplinary forum for researchers working in fields ranging from such fundamental problems as ultrafast energy transfer, hole burning and single molecule spectroscopy, to development of light-emitting diodes, photorefractive materials, optical memory and techniques for microfabrication. The papers have been divided into the following topical groups.

- Excited States Studies
- Hole Burning
- Near-Field Photophysics
- Nanostructures and Thin Films
- Photochromism and Photochemistry
- Materials for Nonlinear Optics
- Electroluminescence and Photoconduction
- Special Topics.

The 9th symposium will be organized jointly by Professor Hans C. Wolf (Universität Stuttgart) and Professor Dietrich Haarer (Universität Bayreuth), and will be held in 1999 in Germany.

We are grateful to the sponsor organizations (whose names are given in a separate page) for their financial support. Thanks also are due to the members of the International Organizing Committee for many valuable suggestions. It was, however, the participants who made this conference very stimulating and fruitful, through their interest and activities. We hope that all participants share this impression. We extend our special thanks to those who have contributed to this special issue.

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