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Guest Editor's Preface

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GUEST EDITOR'S PREFACE

This volume is the first part of the Proceedings of the 5th European Conference on Liquid Crystals (ECLC 99), held in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece, from 23 to 30 April 1999. Nearly 300 participants from 31 countries contributed over four hundred papers which were presented in 13 plenary oral sessions and 3 poster sessions. We would like to thank the members of the Organizing Committee, our associates and our students who worked hard before and during the conference for a successful and enjoyable result.

In organizing the ECLC 99 we aimed at high scientific quality and a balanced presentation of results from all the important areas of liquid crystal research. We were able to pursue these goals thanks to the high quality of contributed papers and to the valuable recommendations by the members of the International Advisory Board and the Scientific Committee, to whom we are indebted.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support offered by the sponsors of the ECLC 99. In addition to covering essential organizational costs, these funds enabled us to cover registration, travel and/or accommodation expenses for many of the participants.

The proceedings include 97 full papers on the chemistry, physics and applications of liquid crystals. These papers were accepted for publication after having been subjected to detailed refereeing. Many thanks are due to the referees of the manuscripts for their careful work and prompt responses, and of course to the authors of all the contributed papers. Finally, we thank the Gordon and Breach Science Publishers for giving us the opportunity to serve as guest editors of these special volumes of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* and for their support throughout the preparation of the ECLC 99 proceedings.

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