

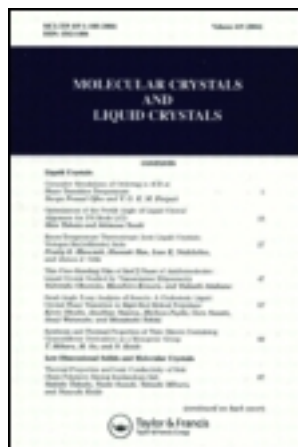
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Preface

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Preface

The 21st International Liquid Crystal Conference, a biennial event under the auspices of the International Liquid Crystal Society, was held in Keystone, Colorado from July 2nd to 7th, 2006. Some 670 participants from around the world with interests in liquid crystal science and technology attended and presented close to 900 papers on new physics, chemistry and applications of liquid crystals. The conference reflected the exuberance and vitality of the liquid crystal field, especially in the emergence of liquid crystal research themes in cutting edge soft nanoscience, non-display photonics, and bioscience.

The Liquid Crystal Materials Research Center of the University of Colorado, Boulder organized the conference through the dedicated work of its ILCC21 Team: Christine Morrow, Eva Korblova, Michi Nakata, Annett Baumgartner, Lior Eshdat, Joseph MacLennan, Matthew Glaser, David Walba, and Noel Clark. They thank the International Advisory Board and the Scientific Committee for their help in the preparation of the conference program. Finally, as Guest Editors, we also thank all the authors who submitted their conference presentations for publication in these proceedings, which include around 150 papers that were subjected to the normal processes of scientific peer review. We owe special thanks to all the colleagues who served as referees.

The conference was funded by Grants from by the LCMRC, National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Support is also gratefully acknowledged from Taylor & Francis, Instec, Toyo, LC Vision, Rollic Technologies, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Samsung, Sony International, Wiley Interscience, Displaytech, and Meadowlark Optics.

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