



## Preface

The techniques for the growth of organic molecular crystals and thin films are having a renewed interest since they permit to obtain high quality samples for the study of the fundamental chemical and physical properties of these materials, recently demonstrated very promising for device applications. Indeed, the structural perfection of organic crystals and the fine control of the sample properties will come along with very prospective new applications or at least with a remarkable improvement of already existing materials and devices. In the attempt of pointing out the state of the art of the field, possibly finding some answers to common problems, we planned to organize a Symposium on "Current trends in crystalline organic semiconductors: growth, growth modelling, and fundamental properties" in the frame of the 2003 E-MRS Spring Meeting. Being a quite unique topic for a conference, we regarded it as an experiment.

About 50 to 60 people attended the Symposium everyday, listening to 12 invited talks and 28 oral presentations. About 30 posters were displayed during all the week and were the chance for meeting each other and discussing the results in more detail. Papers on both single crystals and thin films were presented, illustrating experimental and theoretical results. Some molecules, such as anthracene, PTCDA and NTCDA, oligothiophenes, and oligophenylenes, as well as their derivatives, are still receiving great interest as prototypical molecular materials and are used to establish new techniques for sample preparation, characterization, and modellization. On the other hand, some newly synthesized compounds were

presented whose properties in the solid state are under study; the chemistry related problem of material purity and control has been addressed by several speakers. Talks and posters devoted to deep studies on the optical and transport properties of molecular crystalline materials were often supported by the results of scanning probe microscopies, used to understand and model the growth process and the sample morphology. Finally, theoretical modelling of the optical and transport behavior of molecular crystals was also shown to be more and more powerful and reliable.

We hope all the attendees enjoyed the Symposium both for its scientific content and for the friendly atmosphere. Thanking very much all the participants to Symposium P, we wait for participating in further activities aimed at maintaining lively scientific exchanges and at establishing collaborations within the community interested on crystalline organic semiconductors.

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