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PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

# ***Liquid Crystals and Applications in Optics***

**Milada Glogarova  
Peter Palffy-Muhoray  
Martin Copic**  
*Editors*

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The CID number appears on each page of the manuscript. The complete citation is used on the first page, and an abbreviated version on subsequent pages.

# Contents

- ix *Conference Committee*  
xi *Introduction*

---

## PLENARY SESSION

---

- 658702 **Liquid crystalline nonlinear optical metamaterials with low-loss tunable negative-zero-positive refractive indices [6587-203] (Plenary Paper)**  
I. C. Khoo, A. Diaz, D.-H. Kwon, D. H. Werner, The Pennsylvania State Univ. (USA)

---

## SESSION 1 PHOTONICS I

---

- 658704 **Self-assembly in nematic colloids (Invited Paper) [6587-02]**  
I. Muševič, J. Stefan Institute (Slovenia) and Univ. of Ljubljana (Slovenia); M. Škarabot, J. Stefan Institute (Slovenia); M. Ravnik, Univ. of Ljubljana (Slovenia); U. Tkalec, J. Stefan Institute (Slovenia); I. Poberaj, D. Babič, Univ. of Ljubljana (Slovenia); S. Žumer, J. Stefan Institute (Slovenia) and Univ. of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- 658705 **Spectral properties of photonic liquid crystal fibers [6587-03]**  
T. R. Woliński, A. Czapla, S. Ertman, A. W. Domański, Warsaw Univ. of Technology (Poland); J. Wójcik, Maria Curie Skłodowska Univ. (Poland); R. Dąbrowski, Military Univ. of Technology (Poland)
- 658706 **Liquid crystal molecular orientation in photonic liquid crystal fibers with photopolymer layers [6587-04]**  
S. Ertman, T. R. Woliński, A. Czapla, K. Nowecka, Warsaw Univ. of Technology (Poland); E. Nowinowski-Kruszelnicki, Military Univ. of Technology (Poland); J. Wójcik, Maria Curie Skłodowska Univ. (Poland)

---

## SESSION 2 PHOTONICS II

---

- 658707 **Photochemical manipulation of colloidal structures in liquid-crystal colloids (Invited Paper) [6587-05]**  
T. Yamamoto, Nanotechnology Research Institute, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (Japan) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (Japan); Y. Tabe, Japan Science and Technology Agency (Japan) and Waseda Univ. (Japan); H. Yokoyama, Nanotechnology Research Institute, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (Japan) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (Japan)
- 658708 **Rotating light with light: generation of helical modes of light by spin-to-orbital angular momentum conversion in inhomogeneous liquid crystals (Invited Paper) [6587-06]**  
L. Marrucci, Univ. degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, CNR-INFM (Italy)

- 658709 **Theoretical modeling of heterogeneous LC systems: nano-suspensions and polymer stabilized LC lens (Invited Paper)** [6587-07]  
V. Yu. Reshetnyak, S. M. Shelestiuk, S. L. Subota, S. Pavliuchenko, National Taras Shevchenko Univ. of Kyiv (Ukraine); T. J. Sluckin, Univ. of Southampton (United Kingdom)

---

**SESSION 3 PHOTONICS III**

---

- 65870D **Characterisation of liquid crystals for broadband optimal design of Mueller matrix ellipsometers** [6587-11]  
J. Ladstein, M. Kildemo, G. K. Svendsen, I. S. Nerbø, F. Stabo-Eeg, Norwegian Univ. of Science and Technology (Norway)
- 65870E **Electrically controlled depolarization of light by use of liquid crystal cells** [6587-12]  
A. W. Domański, D. Budaszewski, M. Sierakowski, T. R. Woliński, Warsaw Univ. of Technology (Poland)

---

**SESSION 4 HOLOGRAPHY AND GRATING**

---

- 65870F **Neutron diffraction from holographic polymer-dispersed liquid crystals (Invited Paper)** [6587-13]  
I. Drevensek-Olenik, Univ. of Ljubljana (Slovenia); M. A. Ellabban, M. Fally, Univ. of Vienna (Austria); K. P. Pranzas, J. Vollbrandt, GKSS Research Ctr. (Germany)
- 65870G **Organic and hybrid tunable Bragg gratings for photonic devices (Invited Paper)** [6587-14]  
G. Abbate, CNR-INFM, Univ. degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Italy); A. Marino, INFM, Univ. degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Italy); V. Tkachenko, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Italy); F. Vita, Università Politecnica delle Marche (Italy)
- 65870H **100GHz electrically tunable planar Bragg grating via nematic liquid crystal overlay for reconfigurable WDM networks.** [6587-15]  
F. R. Mahamd Adikan, J. C. Gates, A. Dyadyashu, H. E. Major, C. B. E. Gawith, M. Kaczmarek, Univ. of Southampton (United Kingdom); I. J. G. Sparrow, Stratophase Ltd. (United Kingdom); P. G. R. Smith, Univ. of Southampton (United Kingdom)
- 65870I **High-performance rewritable Bragg hologram with high multiplicities** [6587-16]  
A. Shishido, T. Ikeda, Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan)
- 65870J **Optimization of a holographic memory setup using a LCD and a PVA based photopolymer** [6587-17]  
E. Fernández, M. Ortuño, A. Márquez, S. Gallego, A. Beléndez, I. Pascual, Univ. de Alicante (Spain)

---

**SESSION 5 NONLINEAR EFFECTS AND LASING I**

---

- 65870K **Nonlinear wave guiding in nematic liquid crystals (Invited Paper)** [6587-18]  
J. Beeckman, K. Neyts, Ghent Univ. (Belgium); X. Hutsebaut, M. Haelterman, Univ. libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)

- 65870M **Discrete X-wave-like spatio-temporal structures in one-dimensional nonlinear liquid crystal waveguide arrays** [6587-20]  
G. Papazisimos, L. Halastanis, S. Droulias, Y. Kominis, P. Papagiannis, K. Hizanidis, National Technical Univ. of Athens (Greece)
- 65870N **Spatiotemporal pattern formation in slab nematic liquid crystal cells** [6587-21]  
P. Papagiannis, L. Halastanis, G. Papazisimos, N. Moshonas, S. Droulias, Y. Kominis, K. Hizanidis, National Technical Univ. of Athens (Greece)

---

**SESSION 6 NONLINEAR EFFECTS AND LASING II**

---

- 65870P **Random lasing in dye doped nematic liquid crystals: the role of confinement geometry** [6587-23]  
G. Strangi, S. Ferjani, V. Barna, A. De Luca, C. Versace, N. Scaramuzza, R. Bartolino, CNR-INFN, Univ. of Calabria (Italy)
- 65870Q **Random lasing in a bistable smectic A liquid crystal** [6587-24]  
S. M. Morris, A. D. Ford, D. J. Gardiner, H. J. Coles, Univ. of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- 65870R **Dynamics of the photoexcitation of azo dye-doped liquid crystals probing by pumped attenuated total reflection** [6587-25]  
K. Y. Lo, C. Y. Huang, National Chia Yi Univ. (Taiwan)

---

**SESSION 7 POLYMER AND POLYMER DISPERSED MATERIALS**

---

- 65870T **Photo-enhanced performance and photo-tunable degradation in LC ecopolymers (Invited Paper)** [6587-27]  
T. Kaneko, Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Japan)

---

**SESSION 8 DEVICES**

---

- 65870W **Spatial filters based on azo-dye-doped liquid crystal films** [6587-30]  
A. Y.-G. Fuh, T.-H. Lin, National Cheng Kung Univ. (Taiwan)
- 65870X **Multi-colour switching of polymer stabilized chiral nematic liquid crystal devices** [6587-31]  
J. Chen, S. M. Morris, T. D. Wilkinson, H. J. Coles, Univ. of Cambridge (United Kingdom)

---

**POSTER SESSION**

---

- 658710 **Simplified approximation of an elastic free energy density of smectic B<sub>2</sub>-phase of bent-shaped molecules** [6587-34]  
L. Lejček, Institute of Physics (Czech Republic)
- 658711 **Macroscopic birefringence in liquid crystals from novel cyanobacterial polysaccharide with an extremely high molecular weight** [6587-36]  
M. Okajima-Kaneko, Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Japan);  
D. Hayasaka-Kaneko, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan); S. Miyazato, T. Kaneko, Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Japan)

- 658712 **Liquid crystal displays with high brightness of visualization versus active displays** [6587-37]  
M. Olifierczuk, J. Zieliński, Military Univ. of Technology (Poland)
- 658714 **Fabry-Perot liquid crystal tunable filter for interrogation of multiple Fibre Bragg grating sensors** [6587-39]  
Y. Semenova, G. Farrell, G. Rajan, Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland)
- 658715 **Characterization and optimization of liquid crystal displays for data storage applications** [6587-40]  
A. Márquez, S. Gallego, D. Méndez, M. L. Álvarez, E. Fernández, M. Ortuño, A. Beléndez, I. Pascual, Univ. de Alicante (Spain)
- 658716 **Low-cost liquid crystal display optimized as a monapixel coherent modulator** [6587-41]  
A. Márquez, M. L. Álvarez, L. A. Puerta, R. Estévez, E. Fernández, A. Beléndez, I. Pascual, Univ. de Alicante (Spain)
- 658719 **Temperature control molecular stacking of discotic liquid crystal in columnar mesophase** [6587-44]  
W. Zheng, C.-Y. Chiang, C. W. Ong, S.-C. Liao, J.-Y. Huang, National Sun Yat-Sen Univ. (Taiwan)
- 65871B **Determination of the Jones matrix of an LC cell and derivation of the physical parameters of the LC molecules** [6587-46]  
A. Hermerschmidt, Holoeye Photonics AG (Germany); S. Quiram, F. Kallmeyer, H. J. Eichler, Technische Univ. Berlin (Germany)
- 65871D **Application of an optimized low-cost spatial light modulator for efficient compensation of eye aberration patterns** [6587-48]  
V. Durán-Bosch, V. Climent, E. Tajahuerce, J. Lancis, Univ. Jaume I (Spain); Z. Jaroszewicz, Institute of Applied Optics (Poland) and National Institute of Telecommunications (Poland); J. Arines, S. Bará, Univ. de Santiago de Compostela (Spain)
- 65871E **Optimization of the phase-modulation response of a TNLCD by means of a method based on Poincaré sphere** [6587-49]  
V. Durán-Bosch, J. Lancis, E. Tajahuerce, M. Fernández-Alonso, G. Mínguez-Vega, L. Martínez-León, V. Torres-Company, Univ. Jaume I (Spain)
- 65871F **Dynamic behaviour of ferro-electric liquid crystal by means of nuclear magnetic resonance and dielectric spectroscopy** [6587-50]  
V. Domenici, Jožef Stefan Institute (Slovenia) and Univ. degli studi di Pisa (Italy); A. Marini, Univ. degli studi di Pisa (Italy) and Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (Italy); R. Menicagli, C. A. Veracini, Univ. degli studi di Pisa (Italy); A. M. Bubnov, M. Glogarova, Institute of Physics (Czech Republic)
- 65871G **High-solubility liquid crystal dye guest host device** [6587-51]  
D. J. Gardiner, H. J. Coles, Univ. of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- 65871H **Second-harmonic generation studies in the SmCP phase of bent-shaped mesogens** [6587-52]  
V. Novotná, J. Kroupa, M. Kašpar, M. Glogarová, V. Hamplová, Institute of Physics (Czech Republic)

- 65871I **A comparison of the flexoelectro-optic effect in the uniform lying helix and standing helix geometries** [6587-53]  
S. M. Morris, F. Castles, B. J. Broughton, H. J. Coles, Univ. of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- 65871J **Role of optical extinction in holographic polymer-dispersed liquid crystals** [6587-54]  
M. A. Ellabban, Univ. of Vienna (Austria) and Tanta Univ. (Egypt); M. Bichler, M. Fally, Univ. of Vienna (Austria); I. Drevensek-Olenik, Univ. of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

*Author Index*





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**Igor Muševič**, Jožef Stefan Institute (Slovenia)
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**Giancarlo Abbate**, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, CNR-INFM (Italy)

- 6 Nonlinear Effects and Lasing II  
**Michel Mitov**, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique-CEMES  
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**Viktor Yu. Reshetnyak**, National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv  
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- 8 Devices  
**Peter Palfy-Muhoray**, Kent State University (USA)

## Introduction

This SPIE volume includes the contributions presented at the conference on Liquid Crystals and their Applications in Optics held within the SPIE International Congress on Optics and Optoelectronics (ICOO), which took place in Prague in April 2007. The previous ICOO organized in Central and Eastern Europe was located in Warsaw in 2005.

The conference covered a vast range of topics, namely photonics, holography, gratings, lasing, nonlinear effects, wave guiding, negative index liquid crystalline materials, photonics of self-assembly colloids, membranes, nanocomposites, and liquid crystal fibers.

The best specialists were invited to present 14 keynote lectures in the mentioned fields; in addition, 18 selected oral contributions and 22 posters were presented. Most of the manuscripts of presented contributions are published in this volume, giving an adequate overview of current research on optical applications of liquid crystals.

In their free time, participants could enjoy historical monuments of Prague and its thousand-year history. Prague is also interesting because of its rich history in physics. The outstanding personalities who stayed in Prague are represented in historical succession: Johannes Kepler, Christian Doppler, Ernst Mach, and Albert Einstein. For the liquid crystal community it is surely interesting that about 120 years ago the liquid crystalline properties were discovered in Prague by Fridrich Reinitzer, a professor at the Imperial Institute for Plant Physiology at the German University in Prague. He published his results in *Monatshefte für Chemie*, Vol. 9, 421-441, 1888.

**Milada Glogarova**



The house of the former German Technical University situated in Husova street, Prague Old Town, where F. Reinitzer discovered liquid crystalline properties on cholesteryl acetate.