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Editorial

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Editorial

Dear colleagues,

At first, I am sure you will join me in commemorating the late Pat Cladis and her outstanding contributions to liquid crystal science. Helmut Brand and Pawel Pieranski, two long-term close collaborators of Pat Cladis, have written an obituary for the journal, where they do not only summarise and celebrate her life, but also give some detailed insight into the main aspects of her work and scientific legacy.

This last issue of Liquid Crystals Today for the year also features an extensive review of a topic in liquid crystals which is often overlooked, **bowlics**, a class of materials which represent three-dimensional mesogens, and which are sort of an extension of the two-dimensional discotics and the one-dimensional calamitic molecules, which were first predicted by **Lui Lam**, before they were synthesised.

There have been a number of new additions to the liquid crystal and soft matter library over the recent months, and we will start with two book reviews, one on 'Biaxial Nematic Liquid Crystals', edited by Luckhurst and Sluckin, and a second, two-volume work on 'Liquid Crystals with Nano- and Microparticles', edited by Lagerwall and Scalia. Further reviews of some new monographs will follow in the coming year.

At this point, I would also like to congratulate some more of this year's award winners, Cliff Jones for receiving the Institute of Physics (IoP) Katharine Burr Blodgett Medal, and Nelson Tabiryan (Physics) and Galina Zharkova (Chemistry), who received the 2016 Fredericksz Medals, which were presented at the European Conference on Liquid Crystal (ECLC) in Moscow this summer. Short laudations are given in

this issue of LC Today. A more detailed report on the conference itself will follow in due time.

This year also saw the second joined conference of the German and the British Liquid Crystal Societies. It was held in Würzburg, Germany, this year, a city of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage with its Residence, where also the conference and the social programme took place. The 2018 German LCS meeting will be hosted in the city of Luxembourg, while the British LCS will hold their 2018 meeting in Manchester. All of you are of course welcome to either or both of those conferences. Personally, I sincerely hope that in the future we can continue the occasional joined BLCs–GLCS meetings, because I find them scientifically stimulating and inspiring, and enjoy the different flavours that both sides add to the meeting and its programme.

And indeed there is another occasion for speaking out congratulations: Guram Chilaya, who has greatly contributed to the research on cholesteric phases and chirality in liquid crystals, has recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

At last, a reminder of another upcoming conference: the 16th International Conference on Ferroelectric liquid Crystals takes place in Hong Kong from 4 to 7 December 2017. For further details, please see the webpage: <http://flc16.ust.hk/>

With this rather diverse and full issue of Liquid Crystals Today, I will leave you until next year, and wish you all the best.

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