

FOREWORD

The V Ibero-American Workshop on Complex Fluids and Their Applications was held in Maringá, Paraná, Brazil, from 9 to 12 September 2001. In its fifth edition, about 140 participants attended the Workshop from ten countries, not only from Ibero-America, but also from Europe and the USA. Nearly forty invited and oral presentations and more than sixty posters were presented. Different subjects were discussed, involving fundamental physico-chemical properties of complex fluids (liquid crystals, magnetic colloids and polymers) and technological applications. There were sections devoted to thermotropic and lyotropic liquid crystals, theory and computing modelling, polymer liquid crystals, dispersed systems, synthesis of new molecules, devices and characterization. This special issue with the proceedings of the Workshop includes 21 papers describing experimental and theoretical aspects of physics, chemistry and applications of complex fluids. They represent a wide range of topics covered at the workshop and give an actual overview of this area in Ibero-America. During the meeting, the Professor G. W. Gray Award was attributed to the two best poster presentations. We acknowledge financial support from Capes, CNPq, Fundação Araucária, Universidade Estadual de Maringá, FAPESP, PRONEX and Universidade Estadual de Londrina, which allowed the participation of many invited speakers and students.

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