36th M. Smoluchowski Symposium on Statistical Physics: Soft Matter, Information Processing and Nonequilibrium Fluctuations



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## A tribute to Lech Longa: Devoting more than forty years to probing new phenomena in nematic liquid crystals

Wednesday, 27 September 2023 10:50 (40 minutes)

In this talk I will present my memories of a four-decade long connection, both professional and personal with Professor Lech Longa. I will focus on the primary ways this connection developed and grew: visits I made to the Jagiellonian University, visits he made to Kent State University (including a year-long Fulbright Fellow-ship), and two sets of biennial conferences we both attended, namely the Liquid Crystal Gordon Conference, and the International Liquid Crystal Conference. Our scientific interests intersected in many ways, but I will simplify by briefly discussing just two areas of research we contributed to: biaxiality and the search for a biaxial nematic phase, and a theoretical understanding of the now experimentally well-established twist-bend nematic phase.

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