





the surface profile shows the defect-induced depressions in the case of pure CB [Fig. (f)] and the raised bumps due to particle-induced layer deformations in the case of the LC-GN dispersions [Fig. (g)] since the selected area electron diffraction pattern perpendicular to the surface or probed by AFM reflects the profile of the top surface layer in the film. The apparent variation in the height of individual bumps might be due to polydispersity of particle sizes (transmission electron microscopy data show that particle diameters vary from 10 to 20 nm with an average size of  $\sim 15$  nm) for formation of dislocation loops of different



spherical dispersions in isotropic fluids of great fundamental interest to explore the feasibility of achieving ordered periodic self-assembly of nanoparticles and spatial structures composed of nanoparticles and particle-free structures in a liquid crystal (LC).

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the enhanced colloidal stability of spherical LC nanoparticle dispersions as compared to those in neat solvents. In experimental and computer simulated spectra, we have shown that the interparticle separations between isolated silica nanoparticles in the bulk of spherical silica are nearly the same even for highly concentrated suspensions. Nanoparticles in the LC do not aggregate but rather modify the free surface profile of the LC due to layer distortions around the inclusions in the LC bulk. The nanoscale dispersions are of interest for technologies that require composite construction of nanoparticles and dielectric materials with tunable properties and interparticle distances which may provide means of spatial structure