The 17th International Conference on Database Theory (ICDT 2014) was held in Athens, Greece, March 24–27, 2014. Originally biennial, the ICDT conference has been held annually and jointly with EDBT (“Extending Database Technology”) since 2009.

The proceedings of ICDT 2014 include an overview of a keynote address by Frank Neven (Hasselt University), an overview of a keynote address by Christopher Ré (Stanford University), an overview of an invited lecture by Christian Bizer (Mannheim University), a laudation concerning the ICDT 2014 Test of Time Award, and 22 research papers that were selected by the Program Committee from 60 submissions.

Out of the 22 accepted papers, the Program Committee selected the paper *Reasoning about XML Constraints based on XML-to-relational mappings* by Matthias Niewerth and Thomas Schwentick for the ICDT 2014 Best Paper Award. Furthermore, the Program Committee selected the paper *Deciding Correctness with Fairness for Simple Transducer Networks* by Tom Ameloot for the ICDT 2014 Best Student Paper Award, and it selected the paper *Leapfrog Triejoin: A Simple, Worst-Case Optimal Join Algorithm* by Todd Veldhuizen for the ICDT 2014 Best Newcomer Award.

The ICDT 2014 Test of Time Award is given to the paper *Naturally Embedded Query Languages* by Val Breazu-Tannen (now Tannen), Peter Buneman, and Limsoon Wong, which originally appeared in the proceedings of ICDT 1992.

Warmest congratulations to the authors of these award winning papers!

I thank all authors who submitted papers to ICDT 2014. I would also like to thank all members of the Program Committee, and the many external reviewers, for the enormous amount of work they have done. The Program Committee did not meet in person, but carried out extensive discussions during the electronic PC meeting. I thank Andrei Voronkov for his EasyChair system, which made it easy to manage and coordinate the discussion.

I thank the ICDT Council members for their help in selecting the Program Committee and their advice on issues of policy during the conference; I am particularly grateful to Wang-Chiew Tan (ICDT 2013 PC Chair) for her advice. Special thanks also go to Vincent Leroy and Grigoris Karvounarakis, the Proceedings and Publicity Chairs of EDBT/ICDT 2014. I thank many colleagues involved in the organisation of the conference for fruitful collaboration, in particular, Vassilis Christophides (EDBT/ICDT 2014 Conference Chair).

Nicole Schweikardt
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