

# Foreword

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This volume contains the proceedings of the Twenty-third ACM SIGMOD-SIGACT-SIGART Symposium on Principles of Database Systems (PODS 2004), held at Le Maison de la Chimie, Paris, France, on June 14-16, 2004 in conjunction with the 2004 ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data. It consists of a paper based on the invited talk by Georg Gottlob, and 30 contributed papers that were selected by the program committee for presentation at the symposium.

The program committee has selected the contributed papers from 183 submissions. Some of the papers are “extended abstracts” and are preliminary reports on work in progress. While the program committee has read them carefully and discussed them intensively, they have not been formally refereed. It is expected that much of the research described in these papers will be published in detail in computer science journals, where they will go through a formal review.

The program committee selected *Conditional XPath, the First Order Complete XPath Dialect* by Maarten Marx for both the PODS 2004 Best Paper Award and the Best Newcomer Award. Warmest congratulations to the author.

The year 2004 marks the first time when the SIGMOD/PODS event was located outside of North America. This recognizes the international status of the event, and will hopefully start a beautiful new tradition.

On behalf of the PODS 2004 Program Committee, I wish to thank all the authors who submitted papers for consideration. I also wish to thank all those colleagues, listed separately, who helped in the reviewing process as external reviewers. The program committee did not meet in person, but carried out extensive discussions through the use of Microsoft’s Conference Management Tool (<http://msrcmt.research.microsoft.com/cmt/>) over a period of two weeks after the initial reviews of the submitted papers were completed.

As program committee chair, I would like to thank the members of the PODS 2004 Program Committee for the enthusiasm and the hard work they put in reading papers, writing reviews and participating in the extensive discussions. I thank Alin Deutsch for his work as PODS 2004 Proceedings Editor and Frank Neven for his work as PODS 2004 Publicity Chair. Finally, special thanks go to the sponsoring organizations for their assistance and support.

Dan Suciu  
PODS 2004 Program Committee Chair