TRF1: It Was the Best of Time(s)...

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The Timing Research Forum (TRF; http://timingforum.org/) is an international (Fig. 1), gender-inclusive, and open academic society for timing research, founded in 2016 by Argiro Vatakis and Sundeep Teki (Teki, 2016). Following a call to its Committee members in May 2016, we agreed to host the 1st Conference of the Timing Research Forum in Strasbourg, France (TRF1; http://trf-strasbourg.sciencesconf.org). First on the agenda was to decide on eminent keynote speakers to lend credibility to this very first TRF conference. We wanted one talk from the field of psychology and the other from the neurosciences, and so were delighted that both Lera Bordinitsky and Warren Meck accepted our invitations immediately. Lera kicked off the conference for us, with an extremely entertaining talk about the spatial representation of time in different societies and cultures and how the linguistic metaphors we use to describe time influence our conception of time. Warren highlighted the key role of the striatal dopaminergic system for timing, illustrating his talk with data from an impressive variety of methodological techniques from the clinical level (performance in patients with Parkinson's Disease) right down to the cellular (optogenetic studies in mice). Coincidentally, the role of dopamine in timing was also the subject of our third keynote talk. One of the mission statements of TRF is to promote the work of young researchers, and Argiro and Sundeep had the great idea to invite an early-career researcher to give a keynote talk. The TRF committee members were invited to submit recommendations of key timing papers published in 2016, and Sofia Soares was the unanimous choice to present her PhD work with Joseph Paton on the timing functions of midbrain dopamine neurons, published in Science (Soares et al., 2016). She
delivered an incredibly assured talk, demonstrating that the activity of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra, though not of those in the ventral tegmental area, causally reflects and controls time-based judgments.

We knew TRF had a large membership with more than 650 members and that the timing community was growing. But for a specialized conference, we judged three days of single-track sessions would be sufficient. We therefore planned and announced the dates (October 23–25, 2017) accordingly. However, the incredible response to our call for abstracts (>200 submissions) meant that we had far more abstracts than time available. We therefore had to make the difficult decision to program parallel sessions. Some tough scheduling choices would have to be made! We were particularly overwhelmed by the excellent quality of submissions for symposia and wish we could have accepted them all. In the end, we chose a balanced selection of neuroscientific, psychological and computational symposia that spanned timing from the milliseconds range right up to circadian rhythms (see Fig. 2). The 15 symposia (encompassing 52 individual talks, 35% female presenters) covered a wide spectrum of timing phenomena: how duration is processed (e.g., spatial, motor or embodied representations...