



News release

from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

2016 EMCDDA SCIENTIFIC AWARD — LISBON

Annual award ceremony to celebrate excellence in scientific writing on illicit drugs

(9.11.2016, LISBON) Winners of the **2016 EMCDDA scientific award** will gather in Lisbon on 10 November for the sixth annual award ceremony hosted by the **EU agency**. The acclaimed writers will receive a non-monetary prize for their articles in the margins of the **EMCDDA Scientific Committee** meeting, convening this week in the Portuguese capital.

The prize, inaugurated in 2011 by the **EMCDDA** and its **Scientific Committee**, celebrates scientific writing and distinguishes high-quality research in the field of illicit drugs. This year, over 50 papers were nominated by members of the Scientific Committee, the Reitox national focal points, drug research societies with a European focus, peer-reviewed scientific journals and by **EMCDDA** staff. The 2016 winning articles, which will be presented at the ceremony, are:

Category 1: Basic biological, neurobiological and behavioural research

'Basolateral and central amygdala differentially recruit and maintain dorsolateral striatum-dependent cocaine-seeking habits' (2015), primary author **Jennifer E. Murray, PhD (US)**. Published in *Nature Communications*, 6: 10088.

Category 2: Population-based and epidemiology research

'Design and baseline findings of a large-scale rapid response to an HIV outbreak in people who inject drugs in Athens, Greece: the ARISTOTLE programme' (2015), primary author **Angelos Hatzakis, MD, PhD (Greece)**. Published in *Addiction*, 110: 1 453–1 467.

Category 3: Demand-reduction research

'Opioid maintenance treatment — a call for a joint European quality care approach' (online 2015; printed 2016), primary author **Dr Laura Brandt (Austria)**. Published in *European Addiction Research*, 22: 36–51.

Category 4: Supply, supply reduction and crime

'Women's gender performances and cultural heterogeneity in the illegal drug economy' (2015), primary author **Heidi Grundetjern, MA (Norway)**. Published in *Criminology*, 53: 253–279.

Chair of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee Prof. Dr Gerhard Bühringer said: 'The EMCDDA scientific award promotes excellence in academic publishing and showcases major advancements in the drugs field. The consistently high number of nominations for the award reflects a vibrant scientific community across the EU which is active on a range of issues relevant to drug policymaking. This year's winning papers explore new research in neurobiology; innovative responses to drug-related infectious diseases; quality of care for opioid users and gender considerations in the illegal drug economy. The EMCDDA and its Scientific Committee congratulate the winners and applaud their robust contributions to our knowledge base in the field of drugs and drug addiction.'

Award ceremony: 19.00 — Thursday 10 November at the Pousada de Lisboa, Praça do Comércio (open to the press). Jennifer Murray is unable to attend the ceremony but will send a short written statement. For more, see: www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/scientific-award