



# News release

from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon

2017 EMCDDA SCIENTIFIC AWARD — LISBON

## EMCDDA scientific award winners to present at Lisbon Addictions 2017

(18.10.2017, LISBON) Winners of the **2017 EMCDDA scientific award** will gather in Lisbon on 25 October for the seventh annual award ceremony hosted by the **EU drugs agency (EMCDDA)**<sup>(1)</sup>. The acclaimed writers will receive a non-monetary prize and present their articles during the conference **Lisbon Addictions 2017**, convening next week in the Portuguese capital <sup>(2)</sup>.

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, close to 50 papers were nominated by members of the agency's Scientific Committee, the Reitox national focal points, drug research societies with a European focus, peer-reviewed scientific journals and by **EMCDDA** staff. The 2017 winning articles, which will be presented at related sessions during the conference, are:

### Category 1: Basic biological, neurobiological and behavioural research

'Detection and activity profiling of synthetic cannabinoids and their metabolites with a newly developed bioassay' (2016), primary author **Annelies Cannoot, Pharm. D. (Belgium)**. Published in *Analytical Chemistry* 88(23): 11476–11485 (<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.analchem.6b02600>)<sup>(3)</sup>.

### Category 2: Population-based and clinical epidemiology

'The perfect storm: incarceration and the high-risk environment perpetuating transmission of HIV, hepatitis C virus, and tuberculosis in Eastern Europe and Central Asia' (2016), primary author **Professor Frederick L. Altice, M.D. (United States)**. Published in *The Lancet* 388(10050): 1228–1248 ([www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2816%2930856-X/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2816%2930856-X/abstract))<sup>(4)</sup>.

### Category 3: Markets and drug cultures

'Cash and carry: the high cost of currency smuggling in the drug trade' (2016), primary author **Melvin Soudijn, PhD (The Netherlands)**. Published in *Crime, Law and Social Change* 66(3): 271–290 (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10611-016-9626-6>)<sup>(5)</sup>.

### Category 4: Demand reduction interventions

'Sustained-release dexamfetamine in the treatment of chronic cocaine-dependent patients on heroin-assisted treatment: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial' (2016), primary author **Mascha Nuijten, PhD (The Netherlands)**. Published in *The Lancet* 387(10034): 2226–2234 (<http://thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2816%2900205-1/fulltext>)<sup>(6)</sup>.

**Chair of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee Dr Anne Line Breteville-Jensen** says: 'New scientific developments can broaden the EMCDDA's understanding of the drugs phenomenon, helping it to innovate and keep pace with new challenges and threats. The EMCDDA scientific award allows us to showcase major advancements in the field of drugs and addictions and maintain an ongoing dialogue with the research and scientific community across the EU. The agency and its Scientific Committee congratulate the winners and applaud their robust contributions, both to our knowledge base as well as to policy and practice.'

## Notes

(<sup>1</sup>) The **Scientific award ceremony** will take place within the conference **Lisbon Addictions 2017** at the Lisbon Congress Centre ([www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2017](http://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2017)). The ceremony will be held on Wednesday 25 October during Plenary session III (Boundaries of addiction), which will run from 16.30 to 18:00 and is open to media registered for the conference.

(<sup>2</sup>) For more on the shortlisted and winning articles and award criteria, see: [www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/scientific-award](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/scientific-award) For more on the presentations, see Lisbon Addictions 2017 programme at [www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2017](http://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2017)

(<sup>3</sup>) Paper to be presented on 24 October at Structured session 2 (11.30–13.00): 'Early warning for new psychoactive substances'.

(<sup>4</sup>) Paper to be presented on 25 October at Paper session 41 (14.30–16.00): 'Responding in the prison setting'.

(<sup>5</sup>) Paper to be presented on 25 October at Paper session 35 (12.45–14.15): 'Crime and violence'.

(<sup>6</sup>) Paper to be presented on 24 October at Paper session 3 (11.30–13.00): 'A focus on pharmacotherapy'. The paper will be presented by co-author Peter Blanken.

*The EMCDDA is also hosting two technical conferences on drug-impaired driving and on wastewater-based epidemiology in the week of Lisbon Addictions 2017. For more, see [www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/home\\_en](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/home_en) and Drugnet Europe 99, pages 2–3 [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/99\\_en](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drugnet/99_en)*