

# Speech

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Speaker	<b>Wolfgang Goetz</b>
Title of speech	<b>Opening address</b>
Occasion	<b>Scientific paper award 2015</b>
Date	<b>23.09.2015</b>

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Dear participants in the *Lisbon Addictions 2015* conference,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the **EMCDDA scientific paper award**.

I would like to start by thanking the conference organisers for the opportunity to hold this award ceremony in the margins of the **First European conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies**. The EMCDDA is very proud to be a main partner in this initiative which, I am sure, will become a major calendar event for scientists in the addictions field.

And of course, I extend a special welcome to the winners of this year's edition of the EMCDDA scientific paper award. They have kindly accepted our invitation to the event today.

Let me introduce my co-panellist, Prof. Dr. Gerhard Bühringer. Prof. Bühringer is a University Professor in Germany and Chair of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, in which there are another 15 well-known professors... and some of them are here with us today.

## <Context of award>

But now to the award:

For the past 20 years, the EMCDDA has been providing evidence for policymaking... Our basic Regulation describes this evidence as 'factual, objective, reliable and comparable information on drugs and drug addiction and their consequences'.

In this respect, one of the main objectives of the EMCDDA's work is to ensure that the findings of European research are made available to those formulating policy and also to those working in the field.

Our Scientific Committee is committed to promoting scientific excellence and to ensuring that the findings of European research are made available to a broad audience.

For this reason we launched this award in 2011 with the objectives of stressing the importance of scientific writing and distinguishing high-quality research in the field of illicit drugs.

... and today we are celebrating the 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

Here, I would like to say a big thank you to Margareta Nilson, a now retired EMCDDA staff member. Margareta, who is here with us today, was pivotal in starting this initiative, which has now become an established award in our field.

### <About the 2015 prize>

This year, we received more than 50 eligible entries in English and German.

Depending on the category, there were between 5 and 18 articles competing with one another.

All these articles were assessed and judged on the criteria of:

- scientific originality;
- scientific quality;
- clarity and quality of writing;
- and EU relevance.

The jury was composed of: members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee, members of the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) and the agency's senior scientific staff.

This jury distinguished 24 papers... and their abstracts are now accessible via our website.

The best rated paper in each category — for the first time we have one in the category 'drug supply, supply reduction and crime' — was proclaimed winner of the award and the respective lead author was invited to come to Lisbon for the award ceremony today.

### <The winners>

Now it is a great pleasure for me to come to the winners.

The first authors of the 2015 winning papers are:

- Dr. Monique Vallée, winner in the category: 'Basic biological, neurobiological and behavioural research';
- Dr. Christoph Ort, here accompanied by his co-author Dr. Jonas M. Eppler, winner in the category: 'Population-based research and epidemiology';
- Dr. Ricardo Gonçalves, winner in the category: 'Drug policy';
- Dr. Pierre-Arnaud Chouvy, here represented by co-author Dr. Kenza Afsahi, winner in the category: 'Drug supply'; and
- Drs Tim Weaver and Nicola Metrebian, winners in the category: 'Demand reduction research'.

*Dear winners of the 2015 awards,*

I would like to congratulate you, and your co-authors, on your excellent work. I am sure that the results of your research will contribute significantly to the development of evidence-based practices and to the production of even more robust information for decision making.

I wish you all a very pleasant and fruitful time at the *Lisbon Addictions 2015* conference, and I hope you will also find time to appreciate the charms of Lisbon. I will now hand over to the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Dr. Gerhard Bühringer, who will introduce the winners and their winning articles.