

EMCDDA scientific award 2016

Date 25.11.2015

Purpose of the award

To select and recognise high quality research related to illicit drugs concerning the EU.

Eligibility

The EMCDDA scientific award distinguishes scientific papers judged to enhance the understanding of the European drugs situation/issue.

The papers should focus on illicit drugs or new psychoactive substances. Additional findings on licit substances, such as alcohol and tobacco, may also be included. The article will have been published in 2015 ⁽¹⁾ in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, with the primary author being of European nationality or based in a European country. ⁽²⁾

Nominations

The following organisations are invited to propose up to two papers, which should be selected bearing in mind the purpose of this award (above) and the review criteria (below):

- (1) Research societies with a European focus;
- (2) Members of the EMCDDA Scientific Committee;
- (3) Reitox national focal points;
- (4) Peer-reviewed journals;
- (5) EMCDDA staff.

Each paper should be classified according to the following research fields by the nominator:

- (1) Basic biological, neurobiological and behavioural research (including aetiological and addictive behaviour research);
- (2) Population based and clinical epidemiology (including site surveys, ethnographic studies and acute toxicity studies);
- (3) Demand reduction (including prevention, treatment, harm reduction, reintegration and clinical treatment research);
- (4) Supply, supply reduction and crime;
- (5) Drug policy (including laws, economic issues and strategies);
- (6) Other topics.

Review procedure

The EMCDDA will perform an initial screening of the received nominations to ensure they meet the criteria and are eligible for the award. For papers submitted in a language other than English, the initial eligibility screening by EMCDDA will be based on an extended English abstract provided by the author.

The EMCDDA will send a list of eligible nominations, along with proposed reviewers ⁽³⁾ by research field, to the members of the Scientific Committee before their 2016 spring meeting. The Scientific Committee will adopt the

⁽¹⁾ The date of the first final version available of the article (whether electronic or printed) will be considered to be the publication date.

⁽²⁾ Under exceptional circumstances, and if the paper has a clear relevance for Europe, the EMCDDA may decide to accept the nomination of a paper by an author without European nationality or not based in a European country.

⁽³⁾ Each group of reviewers will be composed of up to five experts selected among members of the Scientific Committee, ISAJE associates and/or other scientists, with specific expertise in the respective field and senior staff members from the EMCDDA.

final list of papers to be rated and the jury composition at that meeting. No more than 8 to 10 papers per category should be selected for the rating procedure.

Rating procedure

The rating procedure will be carried out in May/June 2016.

Depending on the number of papers to rate, members of each group will be asked to review all papers in that research field or a limited number of papers will be allocated to different members of the group. The allocation system will ensure that each paper is reviewed by at least two different reviewers.

Each group will review the papers from its research field according the following system:

Every member of the review group scores a paper with 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest) credits for each of the following criteria: (1) scientific originality, (2) scientific quality, (3) clarity and quality of writing, and (4) EU relevance.

In case of submitted papers in languages other than English, the rating will preferably be done by native speakers of the paper language.

The use of guidelines for the review procedure (such as the ones mentioned here <http://www.equator-network.org/toolkits/editors/#editperr>) is encouraged.

All papers in each research field will be ranked according to the number of credits allocated. For each research field, the three papers with the highest number of credits will be placed on a shortlist of 15 to 20 papers. From these, up to five papers of outstanding quality will be selected to receive an award.

Announcement of shortlists and winners

The shortlists, including the papers receiving an award, will be published on the EMCDDA's website and distributed via the usual channels. Abstracts of all shortlisted papers will be made available online and all laureates will receive a letter of congratulation from the Scientific Committee and the EMCDDA. The first authors of the awarded papers will receive a trophy.

Policy on competing interests

To avoid conflicts between competing interests the following policy was established:

- (1) Papers where the first author is (1) a member of the EMCDDA's Scientific Committee or (2) a member of the EMCDDA's staff are considered to be non-eligible;
- (2) Papers where the nominator is a co-author are considered to be non-eligible;
- (3) Papers which are based on work commissioned by the EMCDDA may not be nominated by EMCDDA staff;
- (4) Members of the Scientific Committee and EMCDDA senior staff involved in the process must not review and rate papers where she/he is a co-author. If a member of the Scientific Committee or one of the EMCDDA senior staff members involved is a co-author of a candidate paper, she/he can still serve as a reviewer in her/his field of expertise, but their paper will be reviewed by other reviewers;
- (5) Nominators and reviewers must follow standard ethical guidelines regarding competing interests when selecting papers for nomination and/or rating eligible papers (e.g. papers of colleagues, of other members of the Scientific Committee or of other authors the nominator/reviewer has reason to believe he/she has a conflict of interest with).