

PRESS RELEASE

European Health Forum Gastein announces winner of its first-ever European Health Leadership Award

- *Tobacco Control Research Group (TCRG) receives new European Health Leadership Award (EHLA) during the opening plenary of the 22nd edition of the European Health Forum Gastein (2-4 October 2019).*
- *Led by Prof Anna Gilmore, the TCRG is an internationally renowned multidisciplinary research team which has proved to be highly effective in promoting tobacco control policies across Europe.*
- *The winner has displayed unique and disruptive thinking in accelerating public health progress across Europe.*

Bad Hofgastein, Austria, 2 October 2019 – The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) is delighted to award its €10,000 European Health Leadership Award (EHLA) to the Tobacco Control Research Group (TCRG) at the University of Bath (United Kingdom). 2019 marks the first year the EHFG awards this prestigious prize, which is sponsored by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. The award was launched to shine the spotlight on disruptive thinkers who are leading sustainable efforts to improve health outcomes across the EU.

Founded in 2007, the TCRG has established itself over the years as a global leader in tobacco control research. The research group launched the ground-breaking database *Tobacco Tactics* for research and information on the tobacco industry, and has a proven track-record of impacting tobacco control policies in the United Kingdom and beyond. The group has also exposed several [controversial tactics of the tobacco industry](#). Their evidence has uncovered the extent to which big tobacco is still facilitating tobacco smuggling while at the time trying to conceal this fraudulent practice.

The TCRG was chosen from six shortlisted candidates who all demonstrated unique and innovative ideas to challenge the status-quo of health in Europe. “Tobacco use is one of the most severe risk factors for non-communicable diseases – one of the biggest global health problems to date. The TCRG has made it their mandate to disrupt one of the most lucrative global industries by monitoring and investigating the industry’s influence on health behaviour and critically examining their public intention of reducing harm from tobacco. We are thrilled to be the proud recipients of the EHFG’s first European Health Leadership Award”, concludes Anna Gilmore, Director of the Tobacco Control Research Group at the University of Bath.

About European Health Forum Gastein

The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was founded in 1998 as a European health policy conference. It aims to provide a platform for all stakeholders from the fields of public health and healthcare, and beyond. Over the past decade, the EHFG has established itself as an indispensable institution in the scope of European health policy. It has made a decisive contribution to the development of guidelines and above all the cross-border exchange of experience, information and cooperation. Leading experts participate in the annual conference held in the Gastein Valley in the Austrian Alps for three days in October.

For further information on the EHLA

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