

Good evening and Welcome to this Awards Ceremony for the **Second European Civic Prize on Chronic Pain- Collecting Good Practices.**

I am Dr Beverly Collett and for 30 years I worked in Pain Medicine as part of a interdisciplinary Pain Management Service in the UK and had the privilege of being a Board member of the Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the British Pain Society. I was Secretary of European Pain Federation (EFIC) and Treasurer for IASP. I held the Chair of the Chronic Pain Policy Coalition, an umbrella organization bring together professionals, patients, industry representatives and UK Parliamentarians to improve the lives of people living with chronic pain and their families.

I was honoured to be asked to be President of the Jury for these prestigious awards and I have been amazed by the varied pioneering ground-breaking applications received. With regard to my esteemed fellow Jury Members, I will introduce them as they present the four awards.

**A brief history of these awards: In 2015, Active Citizenship Network** started this unique project to publicise existing innovative, exciting, proactive practices in pain management services and pain education in Europe that provide solutions, support and collaborations for people who have persistent pain.

The First European Prize on Chronic Pain had 30 submissions from 11 different countries and the 4 awards were presented at the Societal Impact of Pain meeting in Malta in 2017.

The Second European prize was launched in 2018 and this time, there were 40 submissions from 12 different countries, including one from a person who had worked in Europe and then returned to the Dominican Republic to start the first pain management clinic there. So, the profile of these awards is increasing year on year as there is greater awareness of this most worthwhile project.

Over half of the applications have come from partnerships between national civic and patient organisations and health care and other professionals working together. So tonight, even though one individual will be collecting each award, it is the team that wins. Multi and interdisciplinary medical teams, collaboration between specialist and generalist health care professionals, patients and patient organisations and researchers of various disciplines are involved in the majority of these applications.

Prizes are awarded in the following categories:

**Patients' empowerment**  
**Innovation**  
**Professional Education**  
**Clinical Practices**

They were judged using 4 criteria:

**Reproducibility, Innovativeness, Added Value and Appropriateness.**

Importantly, we were looking for practices that could be translated to other EU countries and other clinical settings to spread these examples of existing exemplary practice.

**Active Citizenship Network** has been responsible for the scientific design of this project and its Director Mariano Votta will tell you more about this later.

**Grunenthal and Pfizer** have provided the invaluable financial and non-financial contribution that has made this project possible, and we express our gratitude to these two companies for this fantastic support without which these awards would not exist.

Importantly, this project has contributed to an increasing European awareness of the humanitarian, clinical, socio-economic and educational problems associated with persistent pain and the need for high level attention for clinical solutions, patients needs and research funds.

Chronic Pain was mentioned in the 2017 Conclusions of the Council of the European Union, the EU has just allocated more funds for research dedicated to this topic; the European Commission-DG-Sante has opened its EU Health Policy Platform to a group of experts on this subject;

It now gives me great pleasure to hand over to Mariano Votta Director of Active Citizenship Network to tell us more about the future.