The European Commission has awarded Horizon 2020 grants in call H2020-SFS-2016-2017 dealing with sustainable food security – resilient and resource-efficient value chains. A proposal on confronting obesity by co-creating policy with youth (CO-CREATE) was approved for funding. CO-CREATE aims to reduce childhood obesity and its co-morbidities by working with adolescents, to create, inform and disseminate obesity-preventive evidence-based policies. The project applies a systems approach to provide a better understanding of how factors associated with obesity interact at various levels. Aleksandra Luszczynska and her team are among partners who will pursue these goals, together with partners from Europe, USA, Australia, Africa and leading international organizations such as World Health Organization, World Obesity Federation, and World Cancer Research Fund International.

Sonia Lippke received funding to work in a project coordinated by University Medical Center Groningen in the Netherlands called IMPACCT (IMproving PAatient-centered Communication Competences: To build professional capacity concerning health literacy in medical and nursing education). This is an international consortium with the aim of developing an educational program to improve the communication competences of medical students and nursing students to communicate better with older patients with low health literacy. The grant is part of the EU Erasmus + program.

Urte Scholz was elected president-elect of the Swiss Society of Health Psychology.

In November 2017, Ralf Schwarzer delivered a keynote speech at the Regional Psychology Conference of the IAAP in Hanoi, Vietnam. He also offered a well-attended training workshop on how to publish.

Also in November 2017 Aleksandra Luszczynska delivered a keynote entitled “Ways to increase the impact of psychosocial interventions in the rehabilitation context” at the Annual Israeli Rehabilitation Psychology Congress in Ashkelon, Israel.

Sample of new publications


Lüscher, J., Stadler, G., & Scholz, U. (2017). The role of dual-smoker couples’ received and provided social support for daily smoking after a joint quit date. Nicotine and Tobacco Research, 20, 100-107. DOI: 10.1093/ntr/ntx079


