



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Investigation into cancer spending wins first prize in prestigious cancer journalism award**

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An international award recognising high quality cancer journalism has been won by Matthew Hill, a British journalist, for reports into cancer spending and innovation for the BBC.

The European School of Oncology's Best Cancer Reporter Award (BCRA), established in 2006, aims to encourage high-quality media coverage on cancer and to recognise journalists who have a commitment to enlightening the public about important issues surrounding the disease.

The 2015 winner, Matthew Hill, submitted two outstanding entries: a radio programme entitled "Is Cancer Money Well Spent?" for the BBC Radio 4 Science Unit, and a BBC1 television investigation into an experimental brain tumour treatment.

He wins a prize of €5000 for his efforts, and his work will be featured in Cancer World, the magazine published by the European School of Oncology (ESO).

On hearing that he had won the Award, Hill said: "I am absolutely delighted to receive this prestigious award. The investigations I submitted highlighted the very difficult balancing act the NHS has to tread when it comes to optimising the limited resources it has for funding cancer care, as well the efforts that leaders in their field will make to give patients a chance of extra life through innovation."

The runner-up prize went to Patrice Goldberg, journalist and producer of the *Matière Grise* science television programme for RTBF, the Belgian broadcasting organisation. He submitted programmes exploring skin cancer and innovative research destroying collaboration among cancer cells, and receives a prize of €2500.

When informed that he had been awarded a runners-up BCRA, Goldberg said: “It is a real honour to receive this award. The science magazine *Matière Grise* of RTBF broadcasts many films, which aim to highlight the latest research and innovations in the fight against cancer. I feel that my role as a TV Science Journalist and Producer is also to help the general public understand the life of cancer patients.”

Health journalist Simon Crompton, who chaired the judging panel, said: “The judges agreed that the quality shortlisted entries was unusually high this year, but Matthew Hill stood out as a clear winner, because he dug deep into important and difficult questions about how money should be best spent on cancer.”

Details about how to enter the 2016 BCRA will be available soon at [http://www.cancerworld.org/Media/Best\\_Cancer\\_Reporter\\_Award.html](http://www.cancerworld.org/Media/Best_Cancer_Reporter_Award.html)

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About the award: The Best Cancer Reporter Award is an ESO initiative funded by private donors. Established in 2006, it honours and rewards excellence in cancer journalism internationally. The Best Cancer Reporter Award 2015 judging panel included: Steven Buist (winner of the BCRA 2014 and investigative journalist, Hamilton Spectator, Canada); Franco Cavalli (Chair, ESO Scientific Committee, Switzerland), Simon Crompton (health editor and writer, UK), Sławomir Zagórski, (Former Head of Science Section, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Poland), Katrin Zöfel (runner up BCRA 2014 and freelance radio journalist, Germany) . The Award is open to all journalists whose work is targeted at a general public and who work in print, online or in radio and television.

About the European School of Oncology (ESO): Milan-based ESO is an independent, non-profit organisation that is dedicated to improving the care and treatment that cancer

patients receive. The School was founded in 1982 with the aim of reducing deaths from cancer due to late diagnosis and inadequate treatment. Over the past three decades the School has grown into one of the most important providers of cancer education for physicians, nurses, patient advocates and the media worldwide. Further information about the School is available from [www.eso.net](http://www.eso.net)

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