

## **Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus Students**

### **The speech of the 2020 Laureate, Maddalena Centanni**

**20 October 2020**

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Thank you. It means a lot to me that my research project was selected for this year's prize and I would like to thank the Duke of Arenberg, the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group and the selection committee for the honor of receiving this prize.

Under normal circumstances, we would have all met in person, but due to the current situations this is unfortunately not possible. We are living in strange times, where we have all had to make great adjustments, both in our work and personal lives in order to ensure that we all remain safe.

I believe that now more than ever we are aware of the strength of our healthcare system, but also the difficult choices that sometimes need to be made when it comes to healthcare decisions. This also in a way relates back to my research, where I attempt to find the perfect balance between the drug efficacy and drug safety in order to support patients in their journey back to health.

With that being said, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone that has supported me over the years in my educational journey. The University of Leiden, the University of Uppsala and the Universities of Amsterdam, for supporting and inspiring me throughout my years in academia.

I would also like to thank everyone involved in the Erasmus+ program, which allowed me to visit another University during my studies and build connections with talented researchers from other fields, which ultimately resulted in the completion of my research project. I strongly believe that continuous interaction between institutions and disciplines is crucial in order to tackle many of the complex issues that we are currently facing, the corona pandemic being a good example of such a problem, and programs like Erasmus+ help young individuals to achieve such interactions.

So, to conclude, although it is crucial to remain conscious of the current situation, I do hope that in the forthcoming future it will be more feasible to have international exchange again. Let's hope the students that will come after me will be given the opportunity to visit other universities and extend their knowledge by interacting with other academic and disciplinary fields.

Thank you.