

# Ponencia de clausura

**Moderadores: Joan Pau Millet.** *Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona. Barcelona.*

**Constanza Jacques.** *Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona. Barcelona.*

## Sex, passion and addiction: brain mechanisms

### Adolf Tobeña

*Departament de Psiquiatria i Medicina Legal de la UAB. Bellaterra.*

Correspondencia:

Adolf Tobeña

E-mail: [adolftobena@uab.cat](mailto:adolftobena@uab.cat)

Human sexual behavior follows the phases of wanting, liking and satiety involved in the pleasure cycle of common rewards. The brain mechanisms and networks involved in sexual desire (anticipation) and sexual liking (consummation) have been progressively detailed though there is less data on sexual satiety. Sexual appetites interact with other incentives and pleasures but their relative potencies expect still a systematic approach. The propensity to develop sexual compulsions with the full attributes of uncontrolled and addictive passions will be

linked to individual variations within the neurohormonal systems mediating sexual wanting and tasting and to special sensorial and evocative qualities of sexual auto and hetero-gratification. Although the functional neuroanatomy of sex is similar to that of other pleasures, advances in brain research will likely uncover particular routes mediating singularities of sexual hunger and satisfaction which might pave the way for adventurous, risky and addictive forms of sex behavior.