

“An Unqualified Success....”

September 27, 2007

For Immediate Release

The *Prix Galien – USA* premiered Tuesday night, September 25th, with a gala awards ceremony and dinner at Cipriani, New York City. Television personality Charlie Rose hosted the event which featured the presentation of four Prix Galien medals, two each for Best Pharmaceutical and Best Biotech drug “with broad implications for future biomedical research.”

Charlie Rose noted that “the Prix Galien has been described, without exaggeration, as the industry’s equivalent of the Nobel Prize.” Indeed, six Nobel Laureates were in attendance and addressed the sold-out crowd of over 500 key decision-makers of the bio-pharmaceutical industry (CEOs, R&D department heads and prominent academic personalities...).

Charlie Rose asked each of the award presenters, all Nobel Prize winners, to answer questions about the current state and future of pharmaceutical and biomedical research and treatment.

The medals for the Best Biotechnology Product went to Abbott for Humira and to Merck for Gardasil. The Best Pharmaceutical Agent medals were awarded to Pfizer for Chantix and Merck for Januvia.

Final candidates included Abbott, Astellas, Bayer Healthcare, BioMarin, Elan, Genzyme, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Otsuka, Pfizer, Shering-Plough, Shire, Takeda, Tibotec and Wyeth.

In a special presentation, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel presented the 2007 Prix Galien – USA Pro Bono Humanum Award to Dr. Roy Vagelos for his humanitarian efforts in the treatment of river blindness in Africa. Dr. Vagelos led the campaign for free treatment of more than 530 million people, principally in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The audience was also entertained by the 12-year-old violin virtuoso Sirena Huang. The young musician received a standing ovation.

Other speakers at the event were Chair of the Prix Galien –USA Scientific Committee, Dr. Gerald Weissmann; former president of the Nobel Committee, Professor Bengt Samuelsson; Board Chairman of UNITAID and representative of the French Government, Philippe Douste-Blazy; and Dean and CEO of the NYU Medical Center, Dr. Robert I. Grossman. The NYU Medical Center sponsored the evening.

The Prix Galien – USA was organized and produced by Bruno Cohen. Mr. Cohen announced that the inaugural Prix-Galien – USA was “an unqualified success” and would be back in 2008.

The gala and ceremony were produced by Georges Leclere.

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