

Ladies and Gentleman,

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you tonight and to declare open the second edition of the Prix Galien Russia ceremony in this beautiful and prestigious Dom Pashkov.

Someone told me last year that the first time is always easy but it's the second time that matter . Judging by the 33 applications that we received and the turn out tonight I am glad that you have proved him wrong.

This is the occasion for me to thank all those who have supported our project this year again.

There are also the many members of the different administrations in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, at the State Dum. A SPECIAL THANK goes to the MOH, and in particular to the team of the International Cooperation and Communication department.

Of course all the members of our Jury. Reviewing the scientific files. I hope the other members of the jury will not take umbrage of this, but there are two members that I'd like to highlight in particular. This is Vladimir Trofimovich Ivashkin, who has shown incredible consistency and advice and Dmitry Yurevitch Pushkar who has put all his incredible energy and resources in helping us make this event a success.

A special thanks to our guests who decide to come here despite not having candidates. This is invaluable support. Often people ask me "but what do we gain from this? " As a French man I don't understand why such a question The answer is obvious ! Wonderful Wines and Food ! Why miss this !

But seriously the answer is NOTHING ! There is NOTHING to gain. Prix Galien is only to LAUD the work of researchers in Russia and around the World. To laud those who spend their lives creating treatments or save people. This helps send a strong message to the World !

Finally I'd like to thank all the companies that decided to become candidates. It takes a lot of work on your already busy agendas to compile the files.

A few will be declared winners. Some will be disappointed by tonight's result if they don't win. But I'd like to remind all of you that tonight there will be no losers. First because all the files submitted were for fantastic products, and because there shall be only winners tonight !

The end winners are the patients, your brothers, sisters, fathers mothers, sons husbands, friends that your drugs save in Russia and around the world.

I truly wanted to do this speech in Russian, but for the health of everyone I decided not to Unfortunately for you, we have received a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister, Arkady Dvorkovitch who wanted to be here tonight but did not manage. Nevertheless he has asked me to read a few words for you (Dvorkovitch's letter)

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Someone told me last year that launching such an event was always a pleasure but that the difficult part was to organize the second one. I can surely testify to this tonight. Having said this, it is a pleasure to see that both the turn out –in quality and in quantity- but also the number of companies that decided to submit the research programs

There were a few changes from last year. We introduced shorter period of eligibility to ensure that only latest drugs launched on the Russian market would be applying. We also chose to introduce the awards for the medical devices.

But the spirit of the Galien remains. The jury has worked hard to select laureates in each categories according to one criteria only: WHAT WAS INNOVATIVE DURING THE DISCOVERY OR DEVELOPMENT OF THAT DRUG/PRODUCT. And what was the contribution for the future of science.

We will continue working in that direction and establishing bridges between