

25 May 2023

Galien Prizes 2022 presented, Belgian argenx wins with Vyvgart[®], medicine for rare autoimmune disease.

On May 25 2023, Prime Minister Alexander De Croo presented the 41st Galien Prizes from Artsenkrant and le Journal du médecin at a heavily attended event. The trophy for the most innovative drug of 2022 went to Vyvgart[®]. The best researcher is Abhishek Garg (KU Leuven).

The award-winning drug Vyvgart[®] is a first-in-class antibody fragment with an innovative and targeted mechanism of action, developed by the Belgian biotech company argenx. Vyvgart[®] was specifically designed to block the neonatal Fc receptor. For patients with generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG), a rare autoimmune disease characterized by severe muscle weakness, the drug provides an important solution.

Abhishek Garg

Abhishek Garg won the Galien Prize for pharmacology with his research in the field of cancer immunotherapy. Immunotherapy is a groundbreaking cancer treatment that enables a new approach, allowing the body's immune system to fight the disease. What is unique about Abhishek Garg's research is the approach of using prognostic/predictive or FD biomarkers, revealing innovative proof-of-mechanism/concept regarding the pharmacology of immunotherapy in patients. Thus, Garg's research addresses one of the greatest unmet needs in immuno-oncology.

Medical devices

Earlier this year, on March 16, following the MedTechMeetUp 2023, the Galien Prizes for 'medical devices' and 'promising design' were presented. In the first category, Iriscope, a miniaturized 1.8mm probe used in the detection of lung cancer from Lys Medical, won. The most promising design was awarded to NAO.VNS, a neurostimulator aimed at reducing epileptic seizures, patented by Synergia Medical.

Galien Prizes

For 41 years, Roularta HealthCare, publisher of Artsenkrant/Le Journal du Médecin and de Apotheker/Le Pharmacien, has annually awarded the prestigious Galien Prizes. A jury of university professors selects four winners. The pharmacology prize honours research in clinical and fundamental pharmacology and is awarded to a researcher or research team. The drug prize rewards the most innovative drug for human use of the past year. Finally, the awards for medical devices and promising design recognize the most innovative devices.

Roularta Healthcare

Roularta HealthCare, the market leader in the medical press segment, publishes not only Artsenkrant/Le Journal du Médecin but also de Apotheker/le Pharmacien and AK/JDM Hospitals.

Each publication specializes in a specific subfield and keeps general practitioners, specialists, pharmacists, and healthcare managers fully informed about the latest news in their field. Of course, all titles are supported by newsletters and websites.

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