

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## PRIX GALIEN USA

THE GALEN PRIZE

### **BARRY BLOOM, JEFFREY SACHS TO BE HONORED FOR INTRODUCING MODERN SOLUTIONS TO THE WORLD'S OLDEST PROBLEMS: POVERTY AND DISEASE**

**NEW YORK (September 2, 2009)** — The Prix Galien USA committee will recognize Barry R. Bloom, Ph.D., of Harvard University and Jeffrey D. Sachs, Ph.D., of Columbia University with its 2009 Pro Bono Humanum Award for bringing the best of modern biological and economic science to the poorest corners of the globe.

“Barry Bloom and Jeffrey Sachs are leaders in innovation who have applied science and economics to global health problems in ways that have changed the lives of the world’s most impoverished people,” said Gerald Weissmann, M.D., Prix Galien USA committee chair, New York University professor emeritus and editor-in-chief of *The FASEB Journal*. “We have much to learn from their approach to improving the human condition: Analysis and prevention are cheaper in both human and financial terms than intervention after poverty and disease take their toll.”

Dr. Bloom will be honored for the scientific contributions he has made to understanding immune responses to infectious diseases like leprosy, tuberculosis and malaria. His work has supported efforts to eradicate disease and lessen the burden of infectious disease on impoverished countries. He is a Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor and Joan L. and Julius H. Jacobson Professor of Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. He has been extensively involved in the World Health Organization for more than 40 years.

Dr. Sachs will be honored for the Millennium Villages, a project which has helped rural African communities and close to half a million people lift themselves out of extreme poverty. By providing a basic set of interventions that addresses needs in business development, food, health, infrastructure and education, the project has produced great results including increases in crop yields and school enrollment, as well as major drops in malaria incidences. Sachs was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the most influential leaders in the world, and is the director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and professor of health policy and management at Columbia University.

The Prix Galien USA recognizes the technical, scientific and clinical research skills necessary to develop innovative medicines. The award committee comprises 11 individuals including seven Nobel Laureates, founders of major biotech companies and editors of world-renowned biology journals. Recipients of the 2009 Prix Galien USA will be honored at its annual gala event on September 30 emceed by Charlie Rose at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Prior to the event, the committee will host a roundtable discussion about improving human health through innovative science and clinical research featuring Prix Galien USA candidates and Pro Bono Humanum winners.

For more information about the 2009 Prix Galien USA, visit [www.prix-galien-usa.com](http://www.prix-galien-usa.com).

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