

International Association Les Henokiens - Château du Clos Lucé

THE 2025 «LEONARDO DA VINCI PRIZE» AWARD

The **14th Leonardo da Vinci Prize**, created by the Association les Hénokiens and the Château du Clos Lucé, was awarded on September 25, 2025, to Mrs. Diane Villax, founder and member of the Board of Directors of Hovione, accompanied by Peter Villax and Maria Villax, members of the second and third generations of the Villax family. It was presented by Mr. Paulo Portas, former Portuguese Vice Prime Minister and Minister of State, accompanied by Mr. Alberto Marengi, President of the Association les Hénokiens, and Mr. François Saint Bris, President of the Château du Clos Lucé-Parc Leonardo da Vinci.



Peter Villax- Maria Villax- Alberto Marengi- Diane Villax- Paulo Portas- François Saint Bris





Hovione is an industrial Portuguese family-owned company developing and manufacturing active ingredients for the global pharmaceutical industry, founded in 1959. With a strong scientific background, Hovione has a significant impact on pharmaceutical innovation and human

health, having a manufacturing or R&D role in 5% to 10% of all new drugs the United States FDA approves each year. Owned and managed by the Villax family for three generations, Hovione employs 2400 people in facilities in Portugal, Macau, the United States and Ireland. An estimated 80 million patients are treated annually with medicines containing an active ingredient manufactured by Hovione.



For the President of the Henokiens, « the Leonardo da Vinci Prize reflects our conviction that it is always possible to get involved in an entrepreneurial adventure by becoming the creators of our own future. We found in the Prize an idea that was particularly close to our hearts: it is possible to embark on or pursue an entrepreneurial adventure by bringing extra soul to the world around us » the President continues by

stating that « In this credo, we find all the reasons why the Hovione company honored today deserves this trophy. We recognize Hovione as a true entrepreneurial adventure characteristic of the Henokiens identity, an adventure that began in the basement of Ivan and Diane Villax's family home in Lisbon with research on antibiotics and anti-inflammatories, and which, a few decades later, has grown into an international company employing 2,400 people across three continents. The Leonardo da Vinci Prize today honors and recognizes a family that invented its future by imagining products and solutions in the world of pharmacy and health ». For Alberto Marengi « like all the Henokiens, the Villax family found strength in the conviction that nothing can ever be taken for granted, that everything must be conquered, invented, or reinvented and this conquering identity paves the way for an exemplary economic model in which every human being can find their place, in which profit is not the only goal, in which the production of goods and services is not considered an end in itself but a lever for contributing to the good of others ». President Marengi concluded his speech « emphasizing that he is certain that Hovione, with all its qualities, values, and entrepreneurial vision, enriches the list of winning companies now representing nine different countries ».



For François Saint Bris, President of the Château du Clos Lucé-Parc Leonardo da Vinci « « there is a strong resonance between Leonardo da Vinci's pioneering work to unlock the secrets of human anatomy and the concrete solutions that Hovione provides in developing innovative solutions for the human body. Leonardo da Vinci is

one of the greatest anatomists of all time, having explored every aspect of physiology and anatomy ». François Saint Bris underlines that « he studied the proportions of the human body, the skeleton and spine, bones and thorax, skull and brain, arms, legs, and hands, muscles, nerves, and tendons, major organs, and their vessels ». For François Saint Bris « founded in 1959 by Diane and Ivan Villax, Hovione has spent 66 years creating the conditions for its international success, drawing on solid scientific expertise and exerting a major influence on the global pharmaceutical industry and human health. Owned by the Villax family, Hovione employs 2,400 people at its sites across three continents. Hovione's mission is to offer people suffering from a wide range of diseases a better well-being, a better future, and a better quality of life through prevention, diagnosis, and solutions provided by its products and services ». He goes on saying that « today, Hovione which became one of the global leaders in the life sciences sector in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology fields, demonstrates its ethical commitment and strong values of integrity, responsibility, quality, and respect for others, which are deeply rooted in its DNA and, since its creation, Hovione and the Villax family have contributed to society and pursued their commitment to life in accordance with their motto, "In it for life." He concludes by saying that « through its concrete philanthropic projects, Hovione promotes scientific research and health, and actively supports higher education by funding scholarships and providing assistance to universities and thus the Leonardo da Vinci Prize, awarded to Hovione, recognizes the exemplary nature of family businesses and their remarkable human adventure over three generation ».



For Diane Villax, founder of Hovione, "although her four children have each played a role in the company, she is delighted to see that the third generation is already involved." She adds that "beyond the Villax family, the Hovione family includes thousands of talented and dedicated men and women in Portugal, Ireland, Macau, and the United States and it is their intelligence, hard work,

and passion that have made Hovione what it is today ». To all of them, past and present, she would like to say: thank you, as this award belongs to them as much as it does to me". For Diane Villax, "receiving the Leonardo da Vinci Award carries a special meaning. Leonardo embodied vision, creativity, innovation, and the transmission of knowledge across generations. These values are at the heart of Hovione's history. From Ivan's scientific brilliance to the bold ideas of the young graduates who joined us in the 2000s, to the advanced data sciences that our teams master today, innovation has always been part of our DNA." And « just as Leonardo inspired his students, we have always believed in passing on knowledge, investing in education, and preparing the next generation. Our motto, 'In it for life,' reflects this commitment: to science, to patients, to our team members, and to the long future we want to help build". Diane Villax continued her speech by thanking the Association Les Hénokiens and the Château du Clos Lucé for this great honor ». She also thanked Mr. Paulo Portas, who was kind enough to present her with the award and all the distinguished leaders and friends who came to share this moment with her. For Diane Villax, "at 90 years of age, I have lived long enough to see dreams become reality and realities become legacies. She concludes her speech « hoping that Hovione will continue, for generations to come, to serve science, to serve patients, and to serve society, always remaining true to the values on which it was founded, thanking on behalf of her family and the entire Hovione family, for awarding us the Leonardo da Vinci Prize encouraging us to continue to invest ourselves, in every sense of the word, in life."



The trophy of the Leonardo da Vinci Prize

The trophy, designed by Mellerio, is inspired by the flying helix invented by Leonardo da Vinci. It embodies the laudable values of superiority, advancement and vision that the Prix Léonard de Vinci was created to recognize, promote and reward.