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Post-Soviet States: People, Power, and Assets
Oral History Archive

Interviewee: Mark O. Henry
Interviewer: Rebecca Adeline Johnston
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Abstract

Mark O. Henry is co-founder and Chief Financial Officer of Boston-based Bach Pharma. An accountant by training, he has worked as a CPA for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., a vice president at State Street Bank in Boston, and in numerous business ventures. Much of his career in the pharmaceutical industry has been aimed at establishing a market in the United States for Russian therapeutics. Most prominent in his work is a monosodium luminol product marketed as Galavit in Russia and as GVT in the United States. In this interview, Mr. Henry discusses his experiences working with the Russian and American medical communities beginning in the late 1990s and which remain ongoing.

This transcript is lightly edited for clarity. Audio for this interview is not available. Redacted portions are marked as such. Interviewer questions and remarks are presented in bold.

Interview Transcript

I wanted to start with asking a bit about yourself—where you're from, some of the highlights of your very varied and rich career in accounting and business, up to the point where you started working in Russia.

I graduated with a bachelor of science degree in accounting, became a CPA for KPMG. One of my first assignments that I ever had was in South America, specifically in Columbia, South America. I was helping United Fruit Company at the time sell bananas to Russia, which was prohibited from the United States because of the 1947 ban on trade with Russia that the Congress of the United States had passed. But Columbia could ship bananas to Russia. We did complete one transaction in an exchange deal where we got so much vodka that we would completely destroy the vodka [US] market, [so we stored them in a warehouse] in Miami.

It was just an exchange deal, where we exchanged the bananas for the vodka. It was the first entire boatload of bananas, that Russia ever got from Central or South America. Previous to that time and post that time they did come from Vietnam. So, I had some interesting adventures in

that part of the world. I came back [to Boston], working for KPMG, it was Peat Marwick Mitchell at the time—but I came back and I got my master's degree in international business management at Suffolk University here in Boston. Then, I continued to work on projects outside the United States. I think that's the easiest way to do it.

Before I finished my Master's degree program, I actually got my pilot's license and I went on to get my multi-engine, my jet, and my commercial instrument ratings. I was involved in a company that was flying people for money, [Part] 135, and I did a fair amount of piloting for that company.

In my relationship with my friends in South America, I worked on some medical extracts out of the Amazon. We were trying to bring them into the United States' highly regulatory environment, and we were basically working with farmers on the other side of the coin. I did a lot of work for that company. We eventually produced a product called cat's claw[1] that came into the United States, was processed in the United States. Primary sales were in Eastern Europe and in Japan. It didn't seem like it made a lot of sense to take a Peruvian product and move it to the United States for processing and then ship it from the United States to these other big countries.

I did some work for them in the managerial structure so that we could convert the crushing of the roots and barks in Peru, and then have the final product and ship it directly from Peru in the final product [formulation]. I was not on the board of directors, I was just working with these guys for money, who I knew from my early days traveling around the world. **[0:05:00]** Their board of directors had some really notary, high-experience medical researchers and that was my first entree into medical research. My initial major in college was math/science/engineering, and I switched to accounting, math being my strength.

At any rate, I had a little bit of background, I knew what people were talking about, and I could understand things that were going on. When I was working with these various groups of people from the United States who were working in Central and South America and other places around the world, I had occasion to interact with the scientific board of directors of the company I was working for. I ended up working in their basic labs in Amsterdam on some highly experimental and not your standard kind of medicine. I really got a kick out of it and I enjoyed it and after a short period of time I was pretty proficient at it.

After that, I went on to actually create three science labs in the United States from scratch, right from renting [space to scientific equipment], and I put the laboratories together to mirror what I had learned. They all turned out to be pretty successful, they all did a pretty good job, and they all did certain things.

While I was in [Amsterdam], I was introduced to a group from East Germany who were doing medical work—Russian Academy of Sciences and other medical work, which was totally foreign to anything that the West had ever seen. And I got intrigued by it and I started to investigate it and I ultimately got ahold of the people in Germany that were importing [this Russian medicine]. They got me to the [Russian] exporter that was exporting it and they got me to the people who owned the rights to this [medicine].

And when was that? What year was that?

1999. Just to tell you a little bit more about the continuation of that story, I was able to bring a number of patients to Germany for treatment with the Russian [medicine].

From the U.S.?

Americans, forty American people. And they were all at that time told, "Go home and write your will and say goodbye and you're going to die, we're not going to treat you because we can't, we don't know any way to do it and you're not going to get better." That was twenty-five years ago, or twenty some-odd years ago. And now, fifty percent of them are still alive. That sort of impressed me, and the whole process impressed me.

I went on to do some work for the Russian company in the way of patent development, which turned out to be a disaster, as you'll hear from me later on. And I was able to put together a group of doctors and medical researchers who were interested in taking the Russian drugs and bringing them to the market in the West. That was the objective of what we were trying to do.

Our Russian counterparts thought that the easiest way to do that was to go out, repeat some studies in the U.S., and get publications in English, because they didn't have any publications in English. **[0:10:00]** Everything was in Russian. In the process of doing that, I ended up initially setting up some international conferences where we brought in people from all around the world to come to three-day conferences in different locations in the United States. Fort Lauderdale was the first one. Boston was the second one. We had one in Durham, North Carolina and we had one at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. And they were very well-attended; it was amazing. I had never done anything like that before, but I had some people who were helping me.

These international conferences brought a lot of Russians, medical people, [scientists and researchers], to speak at the conferences in the United States. On the U.S. side, the people were amazed at what they were hearing, they were absolutely blown away by what they were hearing. We set up a series of Russians coming to the United States to speak at different universities and colleges in the United States. Then we had the group that was highly interested in the conferences, and we took them to Russia, and we had them go around and speak at different universities in Russia. We sort of had an exchange program going. This was [2000]. And just to jump ahead a little bit, we started to try to work with the [Food and] Drug Administration to try to get some of the manufacturing processes approved, and that turned out to be a total failure; that was just not going to work.

[REDACTED]

The Russians were also very interested in the technology that I was using to integrate into the live blood analysis system for detecting cancer and other diseases, whatever you can imagine. But inflammation was their expertise and the immune system was something that the Russians, really, really, really believed in. I ultimately spent a couple years up in Stockholm at the Karolinska Institute and all we were doing was studying inflammation and the immune system.

What was so critical to me [is] that the immune system was so important to medicine and nobody in the United States cared anything about the immune system. Easy to tell by going to the Yellow Pages and trying to look up an immunologist and not finding that there are any listed in the Yellow Pages. That's changed quite a bit in the last ten years, but at the time it was not anything the FDA was interested in, or the American Cancer Society was interested in, or any other of the major organizations in the United States.

But the president of the American Cancer Society did come to one of the conferences, as did the FDA. We were able to make a lot of connections. I was able to make a tremendous amount of connections with people, which turned out to be impossible to follow up on because there were so many of them. But I let the Russians do their work, the Germans, the Austrians, the Italians—they were all there—the Mexicans, and people from the United States—MD Anderson Cancer Center, that's how I met them. Sarah Cannon Cancer Center, that's how I met them.

One of the fellows who got treated was a fellow named Frank Smith. Frank Smith was the [retired vice] president of Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals International. And he fell in love with this drug because he had cancer and he knew he was going to die, and he was going through experimental programs wherever he could find them. And Frank had more than a reasonable amount of money to be able fund the startup of Bach Pharma. The minister of health from the Bahamas came to the conferences and we established a long-term relationship with them. They were going through their conversion to break away from Great Britain at the time. There were a lot of other things going on as far as regulatory agencies, but it was a good example for us to see the transition in the Bahamas compared to the transition in Russia, from one form of government to another. That was really something for us to look at.

Frank Smith ultimately went onto a Russian drug, and it was short of a miracle. But ultimately, he did die. He was pretty loaded with cancer when we hooked up. But he did introduce us to the patent world because **[0:20:00]** that was one of his bags, and was very able to provide financing for this company to get started.

In the very, very beginning, the German group that was sponsoring the Amsterdam clinic represented thirty percent of Bach Pharma's ownership. It was a fairly heavy European-funded plan and they were anxious to bring these drugs out of Russia. And Russians were interested in getting English-published peer-reviewed research reports. In the United States, we started to redo a lot of the science. We did it at MD Anderson Cancer Center, we did it at Duke, we did at the University of North Carolina, we did it at Colorado State University at Fort Collins, and we just started to redo what the Russians had already done. And we were amazed, we were absolutely amazed, because a lot of people were saying, "Hey, this is all bullshit; this is not credible."

What was the treatment that the Russians had developed that you were producing?

It's a [drug] platform. It's really a platform. And as a platform, you'll utilize certain technology and chemicals that were formulated in different ways for different diseases and they were delivered differently depending upon what disease you had.

How does that look in practice?

One of the drugs that came out of the program [that] we didn't take on was a leukemia drug that was approved in the United States through this program for a form of leukemia in the blood that children had, that had no known cure. And the company that took that technology out of St. Petersburg and was able to utilize it is the same platform that we ultimately purchased the rights to. That was a leukemia drug and it was the only treatment that people could get for children who had a certain form of leukemia. I couldn't tell you exactly what form it was right now. But anyway, we took the chemical—the basic manufactured chemical is monosodium luminol, and that monosodium luminol is used with esters and other components to make it feasible for certain kinds of diseases.

And that's the platform?

Yes. Now, monosodium luminol has been around for a long time, but it was never used for pharmaceutical purposes. It was always used in the world for lighting up balloons and police detection. But you have to think about it—if you spray luminol on a crime scene and the blood that's been Cloroxed [sic] off starts to show up again, you know something's happened biologically. You have to know that. That's part of the whole way this thing works.

We started to get publications in the West. Just backing up a little bit, but early on, I was shocked to find out that in Russia they never adopted the animal rule. The animal rule was adopted in the United States in 1962 and ever since then, you had to have animal studies which would support your translation into humans. They've never done that in Russia, even to today. And part of my experiences took me to Israel, where they also don't do animal studies.

We have this politically difference of opinion about how you learn **[0:25:00]** what a new drug is. And the platform that we actually purchased and we helped develop and I wrote the patents on came out of the Russian space program. The reason it came out of the Russian space program is because in early years, when the Russians put up the animals and then they put up humans, all of the humans came back and died. They all had things growing out of their heads and they had tumors. The reason was, they didn't have any radiation protection on the capsules. And radiation protection systems are what prohibited the United States from going into space first, because the U.S. needed to protect the shield. What the U.S. didn't know is that they were developing this drug to be able to treat astronauts' immune systems in such a way that you could stand radiation without anything, and they were partially successful in doing that program.[2]

That was a state program, and then by the time you came upon it, it was privatized within a Russian company?

Yes. It was privatized by one of the Russian people that had a relationship to the drug.

This person had been able to take this technology and patent it within the Russian system? Or no patent?

There was no Russian system then. There was no Russian system. There was no Russian system for patenting.

Under what auspices did this person have control over this drug?

He had the technology. He bid on it at an auction in 1994. In 1995, they privatized. Russia didn't have any money. I'm talking about the [Russian] Federation when I say Russia; Soviet Union is different. But the Soviet Union came apart and the Federation didn't know what to do; they had no idea what to do. Siemens [AG] stepped in, Japan stepped in. There was a lack of trust with the Germans, but it was chaos. It was absolutely chaos. They needed money and they sold off the rights to certain pieces of property. That's how you have Hilton hotels in downtown Moscow and Marriott hotels all over the place, because they needed to get some cash. And at that time they only wanted American money. They only wanted dollars, they didn't want euro, they didn't want rubles, they didn't want anything because nothing was worth anything inside of Russia. Because Russia couldn't trade, they couldn't go out and trade. But you could do a lot with dollars that go around the system. A lot of people were entrepreneurs in Russia in those days.

I guess we're still talking about me. My experience went a little bit further when I was asked to serve on the U.S.-Russian scientific exchange forum, which was between [Dmitri Anatolyevich] Medvedev and [Barack H.] Obama. When Medvedev was the president of the Federation. And there were only five pharmaceutical companies in the United States that were asked to participate. Of course, Coca-Cola and Pepsi were there, but they weren't pharmaceutical companies. I was on the preparation committee and helped develop that conference, which was held in Moscow. And it was really, really sort of amazing.

Then after that, I was asked to serve on the first U.S.-Russian trade mission ever by the [U.S.] Commerce Department, and I did that also. I learned a lot. I learned an awful lot about what was going on with all my friends in Russia. As it turned out, because of my piloting skills, I was able to **[0:30:00]** pilot some high-ranking Federation [contacts]. They couldn't speak a word of English, and my Russian—I'm lucky to eavesdrop in Russian. But they were very impressed with the skills that they saw in the cockpit and they readily told me, “We want you to just get out of this pharmaceutical business and we want you to just come here and just fly us around.” Because they didn't trust Russian pilots and they didn't trust Russian planes. And this is the Russians themselves. None of them were driving Russian cars; they were all driving German cars. You go into their house and everything's manufactured outside of Russia. They had the best stuff and the people in the street had to use the material that was manufactured in Russia, but nobody had any confidence in it. It was amazing. It just took so much.

One of the other things I did get involved in pretty heavily was the transition of the arts, the culture department in Russia. And the guy who headed [arts and culture in the Soviet Union], I got invited to his house for dinner and they're singing songs and they're writing songs and I got books that the guy wrote and signed for me. I got all kinds of things.

They were very, very, very supportive of me. When the World Trade Towers came down, I had a friend that was in one of the towers when it collapsed, and they were on the cell phone to me when the towers came down. And I got in the car and I drove to New York and I was there for two weeks, hopefully trying to find [my friend’s] identification, which never turned out, but helping out. The Russians knew that I was in New York City, they knew the World Trade Towers came down, and they were continually calling me and just telling me how bad they felt

and how terrible this whole thing was. And there is right now, on the Jersey Shore, the Russians built a monument and it was phenomenal.[3]

Zurab Tsereteli's monument.

Yes. What happened was, after that, there was an episode in Beslan in Russia.[4] And on the fortieth anniversary of the Beslan [massacre], where the children got killed, which—my opinion doesn't matter—the kids were killed, and they ran a fundraiser in Russia and they put on a phenomenal nationally televised event, which was from the church in Moscow that was built on the island piece-to-piece. The first building that was destroyed—[5]

The Cathedral of Christ the Savior. The big golden dome one?

Yes. That was reproduced a hundred percent. I was part of the program when they were raising the money, for the kids at Beslan. What they decided to do [on the site of the school] is they were going to build a church on the site of Beslan and I went around the United States and I raised money and I took money to the event and I presented the money to them at the event. And it was really funny, because—it wasn't funny, but Dr. Tatiana [Ivanovna] Grishina was on one side of me and the guy that owned [Center of Modern Medicine] Medicor was on the other side of me, Valery [Khazhmuratovich] Zhilov, and his wife, and the whole thing was in Russian. It was blow-away quality, everything. There was over a hundred-piece choir and then they had a hundred-piece band. And then they had all kinds of entertainment going on, singers and things going on.

At one point in the program, they came out and they wanted to talk about what I had done for Beslan, nationally televised in Russia. And Dr. Tatiana Grishina's elbowing me and elbowing me, she says, "Stand up, stand up!" I said, **[0:35:00]** "What?" All the introduction was done in Russian. And ultimately, I got the point that they were talking about me. I did stand up, and the place went absolutely wild, and I had no idea why it went wild, or I didn't know what was going on really at the time.

But it was like a Jerry Lewis fundraiser, where there were people who'd call in and make a contribution and over and over again; run the same tape over and over again. And they were announcing that I had brought this money from the United States for the construction of this building at Beslan. Afterwards, we were meeting in a private group with the people who put the whole thing together and Valery Zhilov, the president of Medicor—our partner company—said to Dr. Tatiana, "How much did he give?" And he said, "I'm going to double whatever he gave and that's what I'm going to give" [laughs]. There's a feeding frenzy going on at the time.

Anyway, I have a perspective, the fine arts perspective. I can't think of their names now, when they rebuilt the ballet—

The Bolshoi?

They rebuilt it. They brought two tickets to the hotel to the grand opening of the Bolshoi. I got to go to that and it was unbelievable. The whole thing was unbelievable. That little opera center is

also quite unbelievable. So, I have some appreciation [for the Russian arts] and I received some recognition. And I did address the Russian Academy of Sciences, [the buildings of] which had tremendously derogated under the transition from Soviet Union to the Federation.

Why don't we step back to that? This medicine that was auctioned off and that you were later involved in trying to bring to Western markets, to what extent were you interacting with the Russian Academy of Sciences during that time?

One of the members of the Russian Academy of Sciences came to one of the conferences in Fort Lauderdale, very first conference I ever ran. And I was impressed with her and she was impressed with me and we ended up being friends. She's a shareholder of Bach Pharma now. And she invited me to come to the Russian Academy of Sciences, and I did go, and I went through their research programs to see what else we might be able to help with, what other kinds of research and drugs and technology we would be able to use.

Now, I need to mention to you that from 1990 to 2014, the actual population of the Federation shrunk—it went down, it went down, it went down. Huge brain drain. Huge. So that when kids graduated from college, because there was nothing for them to do with their technology in Russia, they would go to London or Paris or Germany or the United States or Canada or Ireland. A lot of them went to Ireland. And that put a huge void in the transition from the Soviet Union to where they are now.

Now, they've been able to reverse that and actually the population has increased and a lot of expatriates have come back to Russia and done things and started business and started to do things. Why did they come back? They came back because the cultural difference was too big, too big. Part of [my] roots are in Ireland, and in 1847, when the potato famine started, the second-most [common] destination was Russia. **[0:40:00]** They're nine million people and it went down to three million in two years. They didn't all come to the United States and they didn't all die in death ships. Some went to New Zealand and Australia, but that's a long way. The second biggest population went to Russia. My communist friends are all really Irishmen [laughs]. That's what I tell them, anyway. And they loved John Kennedy. They absolutely love John Kennedy.

In Russia?

Yes, they loved him, and he's an Irishman. And anyway, that's a hundred years ago. That's a little bit of background on what I try to tell them all in Russia. But when I started to write the patents in 2000—

Let me even back up a little bit more. The person that you met who had bought this medicine—you were introduced through the connections you described before. And then, how did that play out that you started to begin writing these patents?

They asked us to do that, so we were doing it. We did it for money.

They hired you basically to write the patents?

Right. To help them write their patents. But I wrote them in English first and we filed them in English, and then they translated them into Russian and then they filed them in Russia. And I had got to work with the Russian patent attorneys at the time, which was before the collapse of the patent office. And in the beginning, the first thing we did was we did the research studies. I had to run all those research studies.

In the U.S.?

In the U.S. We did them all in the U.S. We did two or three in Germany, but we did most of them in the United States and we did them all across the United States so we weren't getting influence. And most of that had to do with AIDS/HIV, or immunology, or inflammation. People weren't interested in those subject matters at the time, but that's what the Russians had been doing. We were trying to copy what they did, not say what else should be done. I brought it today, an example with me, which I'll leave with you, of what it has mushroomed into. I started to write the patents and I started to do these research projects and we started to have success in the publications. And the Russians and I were trying to get the Federal Drug Administration [Food and Drug Administration] to approve the manufacturing processes by which the drug was manufactured in Russia. After two years, you've got Medicor and I sitting in a room frustrated as hell, decided we're not going to do this; we're going to move the technology out of Russia and we're going to manufacture it someplace that's already approved by the FDA for manufacturing, already been audited, and we don't have to go through all of what we're going through now. It's just too hard.

What were those challenges? And Medicor was the company that owned this technology?

Yes. Number one, the drug wasn't sterile and was being injected into people and was not sterile. Number two, it was not pure; it had contaminants in it. Number three, it didn't have the solubility required to pass through the human body properly. It was not manufactured under GMP—good manufacturing practices; it wasn't manufactured that way. And no facility at the time in Russia had ever been approved, in Russia, to sell [pharmaceuticals] in the West.

And as it was in Russia, it was being used in cancer treatment despite that? And it was being used successfully?

Yes. Yes, amazing.

What was the feedback or reaction of the Russian scientists to these regulations that the FDA was requiring for this purification and those other policies?

First of all, in the patent process, the best way to keep a secret under the old culture was just not to tell anybody what you had or what you were doing. The identity of this drug was a total secret; nobody knew what was in the vial. That's the first thing. And that's patent protection in Russia 101—don't tell anybody what you're doing or how to do it. And the government worked that way; that's how the government worked. **[0:45:00]**

The other thing is that you had three hundred million people, or 250 million people, who were basically told what to do. Every day of their life, they were told what to do, where to go to school, what to study, based upon how you were doing. They were told what to do. Now, all of a sudden, the Federation comes along and there's nobody there to tell you what to do anymore. How do you make that transition? Some people can never make that transition, ever. Cultural difference, it's unbelievable. It was unbelievable the cultural differences. And the ignorance on the part of the Western world to automatically think that the culture was going to change because the Soviet Union came down. That's never going to happen in a million years. And some people, that culture's never going to change. It's never going to change.

Did you read the book by [Daniel] McCarthy and [Daniel] Satinsky?[6] The guy from Google came to the United States from Russia and he created Google Entrepreneurial [Google for Entrepreneurs], but he brought with him his culture. His culture is women don't matter; women absolutely don't matter. They're there, and wives in Russia expected the husband to have a girlfriend. It was an expected. And women in Russia that I knew wanted to introduce me to other women for other reasons and I couldn't handle that; I couldn't deal with that. But it's perfectly alright in Russia to touch women or to say things to women that are inappropriate or to otherwise behave, in our culture, inappropriately. And that's just an example, that's only a little example.

He comes to the United States, he creates Google, and we need to change his culture. He isn't going to change. You're not going to change it. It's the way it is, and there's a lot of Russians living in the United States today. I don't understand the word "corruption." I worked like a son of a gun to get the Russians into the World Trade Organization, and do you know why they couldn't get in? Because they had to have a unanimous vote. And you know who didn't vote for them? Only one country voted against them—Georgia. The Georgians were able to keep Russia out of the World Trade Organization. Nobody's defined corruption.

The World Trade Organization has culture in corruption; they have it. But they're not necessarily correct. What happens when you have a guy in the government of Russia, building department—you want to build a building—who gets three hundred dollars a year U.S. money, but he's allowed to keep the fees that he charges to people for filing. The filing fees are his; they're not the governments. He gets three hundred dollars a year, and he has to review all these architectural, or—documents. He has to do all this work and he basically is getting paid by the guy that's going to do the filing. That's the way it is. And it's the way it is in the drug business, it's the way it is in the building business. There was no infrastructure, there was no city planning, there was no building inspector, there was no electrical inspector, there was no plumbing inspector, there was no, "Where do you put the railroad train?"

The streets in Russia go around in a circle, all the way around. They never go anywhere. How do you change all of that in a heartbeat? The downtown Moscow, it's eleven million, it's up to thirteen million now. There are, in the valley, in the very valley of the city of Moscow, there are coal-burning fire plants that are putting out pollution like it looks like Mexico City. I'm telling you, I couldn't understand how they didn't think that this was all bad for your health, the people who live in Moscow. On any given day, there's two million visitors to the city. You need two million hotel rooms, et cetera. Cabs. It's gridlock; the whole city is gridlocked. Not that Boston isn't, because Boston is, but Moscow has been gridlocked longer, so they win.

Anyway, so it wasn't considered corruption for you to say to the guy, **[0:50:00] "**Look, I got this much work to do right now and I can put your application here, or I can put it here, or I can put it here. Five hundred dollars U.S., I'll put it in the middle. Two thousand dollars, I'll put it here. And if you just pay the hundred dollars, I'm going to put it on the bottom and when I get to it, I get to it." What would you do if you were trying to build a building, get a drug approved, or some other application that you need? What would you do? Here's the five hundred dollars. Here's whatever you got, put it in and get the guy to work on it. You have to motivate him to do that. And the World Trade Organization says that's corruption. The guy's getting three hundred dollars a year. A year! It was stupid.

The U.S. government immediately took a group of their patent officers from the Washington patent office and they relocated them to Moscow. And they said, "Install the patent system that we have, because they think ours is pretty good." There was no [intellectual property] court system, there's no [intellectual property] lawyer training, nobody knew how to prosecute a patent, there was no prior art. Guy writes an application for an automobile and he submits it and it gets approved. Now he's got the patent to automobiles in Russia? How's this work? I don't think so.

And the Americans made it even worse, because they didn't create a system around which a patent application could flow. They just wanted to create what was in Washington and redo it here. And in 2002, 2003, the patent office collapsed under the load of work that was impossible and they had to redefine how to file a patent, and they had to redo everything that we had tried to do ten years before and we failed. And in a matter of fact, we made things worse.

Anyway, but that's not subject just to the patent office, because that existed everywhere in Russia. When the Americans came rushing in with their culture and their systems and their attitude that we're right and you're wrong, it's not going to work. The Russians have too much pride—they cook you the bread, they take you home to dinner, they want you to meet all their relatives. It doesn't work that way in the United States. And I'm not saying that we're right and they're wrong, or that they're right and we're wrong; they're different cultures.

Given that environment, how did you facilitate, or—how did you deal with your Russian counterparts within that environment?

Right. First of all, I recognized it. And second of all, I'm Irish. That's how I dealt with it. They're not wrong, in my mind. The Russians weren't wrong. The conversations we always had with all of the people in Russia, all of them, doesn't matter if they're communists—the high-ranking communists are dragging me home to meet mama. It's unbelievable. But most everything in disagreement—agreed or disagreed in Russia—ends up at the vodka table. And you have to be able to participate to save yourself. The first time I ever met them, they came to Frankfurt. We had a conference in Frankfurt, Germany. And that's when I found out that they were having [intellectual property] problems and recognition problems and all kinds of things.

Had they already been trying independently to get [intellectual property] approval in the U.S. independently?

Yes. Yes, they were trying. They hired an international [intellectual property] firm out of Switzerland, and I ended up working with **[0:55:00]** him too. So, I had a start. It wasn't like I created something out of the box, but I did have a pretty good start. First time I ever went to Russia, we had met in Frankfurt and they said, "Look, we need some help straightening out who owns what and where the title is, and where's our patent applications, and we need some help." I went, I spent, I don't know, a week in Frankfurt and then I went to Zug in Switzerland where the Russians had incorporated it outside of Russia. I met with those lawyers and I spent four or five days in the Zurich/Zug area.

For some reason, I flew back to London and then from London I flew to Moscow, because they wanted me to come to Moscow. Because, you've got to be friends. You've got to [have] a little bit of the Japanese mentality. I did, and I got there. I was exhausted at that point. They met me at the airport, they picked me up in a big, huge Mercedes limo and started to blow the horn in the main streets of Moscow. But they drove me from the airport to Red Square and then we went in, they had passes, we got through the lines and got through. They had to show me the jewels, they had to show me the carriages, they had to show me the clothing. It's a ten-hour tour.

Straight off the plane.

Right, straight off the plane from your ninth country in five, fifteen [days] —I don't know how many—I don't remember. It was unbelievable. But they were so excited to show me all this. Then I went to the office and then they had a big dinner. Well, my face was in the soup. But we're sitting there, the four of us are sitting at the table, I had a translator, Valery Zhilov, and Dr. Tatiana Grishina on my side and the biggest water pitcher you can imagine. The guy orders one for everybody, one pitcher for everybody, of vodka. And Dr. Tatiana—whom I had been with in Fort Lauderdale, and in Dallas, and Houston, and Durham, North Carolina, all of those places—she said, "He doesn't drink vodka; he drinks wine."

So I thought, "Oh okay, so this is going to work out okay." The guy brings out a bottle of red and a bottle of white for me and a bottle of red—and she says, "And I'd prefer to have wine too." That's what Tatiana said to the big Russian communist. She gets a bottle of red and a bottle of white and I get a bottle of red and a bottle of white. I said, "What the hell is this all about?" And she asked him, she said, "Why did you do that?" He said, "Because I didn't know whether you wanted red or white." That was his answer.

The restaurant was very symbolic that they took me to that night, although it took me years before I understood the symbolism of this restaurant. But it was an old, two-thousand-year-old mill where they had the spokes coming out, where you walked around and ground the wheat into bread and then you cook. This is what you ended up with at the end of the day. And that was the centerpiece of the restaurant, was the wheel that ground the wheat into powder. And it was, I don't know how old, but a couple of thousand years old. It was pretty old. And it just blew me away, the whole thing just blew me away.

That was your first time in Russia, right?

That was the first night. Everything I just told you was the first night. They didn't give you a chance to sleep. And a couple years later, I asked them about the restaurant and I asked them about, "Why was that restaurant symbolic to you in Russia? Why was this symbolic to you?" And he said, "This was the restaurant where the [Western] filming crew that was allowed into **[1:00:00]** the Soviet Union, filmed the movies about the Russian space program." They went from Skylab, the sky pallet place where they launched their missiles—no, they launched them in Kazakhstan, but they were developing them outside of Moscow. And the TV guys came and filmed in this same restaurant that we were in and the guy was so proud of that; it was unbelievable. Because it was the first Western live taping or show that they ever allowed, ever. One of our shareholders was on the filming crew that filmed that. He told me that.

Incidentally, the first time that [INTERRUPTION] Red Square, the whole restaurant was in there and the Teva [Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.] people said to me, "Do you know why we're here?" And I said, "No, I don't know why we're here." And then they said, "This is where we signed all the papers, where we bought a company to come to Russia and operate out of Russia." All these symbolic things were unreal. On one of my trips, I made multiple trips between Moscow and Tel Aviv. The Teva people took me to dinner in Israel and they did the same thing in Israel. They took me to a symbolic restaurant. I can't keep them all straight in my head.

The one in Moscow was in the Kremlin tower?

Yes, it's in the Kremlin tower. [REDACTED] I don't even know the name of it. It was the very first day that I recognized it—pride and show-off kind of things. It's ingrained in the Russian mentality. And being Irish, I can appreciate some of that. I can appreciate that.

The people hosting you on this first trip, you referred to them as "communists," but who were these people that brought you from the airport?

Valery Zhilov was one of the guys. He was the top guy [at Medicor]. And he is the vice premier of the Caucuses in Russia, which is pretty high up today.[7] He was responsible for security at Sochi. That was his big job and that's what he wanted me to fly him around for, because he didn't trust the Russian pilots.

How did you come to be working with him? Under what auspices were you together with him?

No, we contacted him from the importer, the importer/exporter from Moscow, and he owned the manufacturing facility because he was now manufacturing that material.

The treatment? He was manufacturing it?

Yes. The platform; he was running the platform at the time. He was running that whole company and he bought that company. Just a quick story, but another quick story is that he was a petroleum engineer. And the day the Iron Curtain came down, he got hired by Siemens to run the entire oil exploration program for Russia. And he had to go to Siberia, because that's where the oil was. He was in Siberia for a long period of time, a couple years. And he got very, very, very

sick with lung disease. No one in Russia knew what disease he had. He didn't know what it was. And the Russian lady, the doctor, was Boris Yeltsin's doctor. She was his personal doctor. And Boris Yeltsin told [Zhilov] to get ahold of her and she told him, "I got to get you on what's called Galavit. I got to get you on this government-owned drug." Because it was available to communists, but it wasn't available to the general population. It was only in the military. They only people who could use it were in the military.

It was called Galavit?

Yes. [**1:05:00**]

Do you know how you spell that?

G-A-L-A-V-I-T. And that's a form of monosodium luminol. That's a particular formulation of monosodium luminol. He went on the drug and he recovered from the death bed, from his death bed. He recovered and he's still alive today. And the doctors from the United States that I took over from Sarah Cannon Cancer Center to [Moscow]. They were the first ones to diagnose him after he was totally cured.

To diagnose him as cancer-free?

He didn't have cancer. He had a lung disease.

A lung disease that was not cancer?

Right. Right. No, he had an immune deficiency, which was what his problem was. And he was clearly a communist, you know? When they went through privatization, the communists were the only ones that had any money. Nobody else had any. Nobody else could bid. Nobody even outside of Russian knew what was going on in 1990, 1991, or 1992. We didn't know what was going on. They sold him the rights to this [pharmaceutical platform] for cash.

He was the one who bid?

He bid. Yes, he bid, and he won it. And took the drug and then he started—he had to go through a period to learn how to manufacture it and try to scale up the manufacturing, which never really was very successful. But in 2016, they were doing about seven million injections a year in Russia.

To go back to the holdup with the FDA, there were these issues with the impurity level that the FDA was—

They didn't even care about that.

The Russians didn't care about that?

The Americans didn't care about that.

Oh, the Americans didn't care about that.

They just said, "You're not manufacturing them to GMP standards. You have to change your whole manufacturing around to become good manufacturing practices." And we don't have anybody in Russia that's ever done this successfully. It doesn't matter whether you're Johnson & Johnson or Teva or anybody else. They've never done it. They always go outside and import it into Russia.

From what you can tell in your experience, why was that, that there was an unwillingness to set up those facilities in Russia?

Money, big money. It's a twenty-million-dollar bill to get started.

But that wasn't seen as a good investment worth making?

I don't think people had twenty million dollars and nobody was going to lend to Teva at the time. They couldn't borrow money from the bank. You had to go to the oligarchy to get the money if you were going to do that. And the answer is, "No." They were all focused on oil and gas at the time and pipelines, pipelines, pipelines, pipelines. That was everything.

All the brains were leaving that would know—and nobody trusts anybody in Russia. You could write down things and try to show people what's going on, but the people, they didn't trust you. It wasn't an option to be able to start putting up fifty of these factories anywhere. Bristol-Myers [Squibb Company], as I said—Johnson & Johnson, [Sanofi] Genzyme—none of them were manufacturing there because it's too hard to get FDA approval once you even have the facility. And then you start testing it. How are they going to purify it? That's a whole other process. How are they going to make it more soluble? They didn't have the chemistry tools. They didn't have the labs. They didn't have the analytical knowledge; it had all left with the kids that were graduating and went to other countries. It was all gone.

And nobody was coming to the United States and hiring expertise and bringing them to Russia because they weren't going to go at that time. There was very few of us. We decided to take the technology and transfer it out and we transferred it to the UK. That transfer was done through Ireland, because the only two countries that they would allow us to go to was Switzerland or Ireland. They wouldn't let us go anywhere else.

The Russians?

Yes, the Russians, Teva, and the Americans. They wanted nothing to do with the tax system in the United States. The United States is the only government in the world that taxes your world income no matter where you are. And that's a penalty. And they didn't want to get caught in that routine of having to pay [**1:10:00**] tax on everything else that didn't have anything to do with anything. For the same reason, we went from Lima, Peru to Eastern Europe with the product, was because we didn't want to get trampled by the American taxing authorities. That's what happened.

That was after the FDA failure, basically, with the drug, right? You said at that point that—?

We brought the Russians to the United Kingdom, to the UK, where we had a facility that said they could manufacture their stuff. As it turned out, they really didn't know how to do it, even though they said they did—the Americans [unclear]. They didn't really know what they were doing. And we had to work with them to show them what to do. And then we, again, we improved on the technology. Ultimately, after several attempts, we were able to get it purified. We were able to get it sterile and we were able to meet good manufacturing practices in the process of doing that.

In the UK?

In the UK. That means labeling. It means packaging. It means everything. Shipping. It means follow it from cradle to grave. And that was only the active pharmaceutical ingredient. That was only the API. It was not the formulation. Even though it's manufactured in the UK, we do the formulations in the United States. We have different formulations in the United States. Some of the formulations that the Russians tried with the Russian materials actually failed in Russia. And what you claim the drug does is also part of the failure process. If you claim something and your drug doesn't do it, then it doesn't matter how good the drug is. There are a lot of good drugs that failed but they only failed because of administration, not because the drug didn't work. We know the drug works, but it doesn't do what you claimed it was going to do. Cure is a tough word. It's not like corruption. Cure; corruption.

Ultimately, Russia made a deal. Putin made a deal with Georgia for a trade deal. And they signed off on their entry into the World Trade Organization [WTO], which I thought was good because I thought we were going to be able to—we had to take the material and go to Finland, and then we would go from Finland to Denmark, and then we would go to Germany, and then we would ship it to the United States. That was the only way we could get test material here to start testing it. It was a pain in the neck and took forever.

Because of the WTO vote, this was able to go forward?

One of the functions of the trade mission to Moscow was to try to work out a congressional vote in the United States to repeal the 1947 law that said you couldn't deal with the Russians. And that has not been straightened out.

The Jackson-Vanik legislation? I'm sorry, go ahead.

[REDACTED]

The mission was after they were entered into the World Trade Organization. But some of the U.S.-Russian direct working has been compromised with attitudes. [**1:15:00**]

Currently?

Political games with passports. Political games with everything. The thing that the Russian people agree with me about is that the Russian people love the American people. The American people like the Russian people. We got a ton of them here in New England all the way down to Florida. We got them in California. And we were hiding defectors. We were doing everything for them. We were changing their names, we were giving them driver's licenses, we were giving them passports. We were giving them photo IDs. We were doing all kinds of stuff. That doesn't go on anymore. That's not happening.

When I first started going to Moscow—Russia, I guess—it struck me that it was a black and white city. What do I mean by that? There was no color. It was all black and white. You walk down the street, people looking down at the sidewalk and it looked like New York City with nobody else in it. And there were no kids. And there were no women on the streets at all. There was a reasonable population of Georgians. And they got along fine. The Georgian people and the Russian people got along. Good Georgian restaurants. Five years later, the restaurants are closed. You could go anywhere in Moscow and buy Georgian wines. That was over; you couldn't buy Georgian wines in Moscow anymore. And that really took something out of that city. It took a piece of the city out of it. And that was the politicians' way of penalizing the radicals, what they call radicals that were in Georgia. And I happened to get along with the Georgians pretty well. I get along with the Ukrainians, too. Ukraine is the second largest market for this drug.

Years later, I'm talking ten years later, 2010, 2011, the city brightened up. People wore colored shirts. Women were on the street, young women; people were coming back. Expatriates were coming back because they didn't like the culture of where they were going. Or they didn't like something in Ireland. Or the computer industry collapsed in Ireland and those kids had all had good-paying jobs from Russia, when IBM and Digital Equipment Corporation and all of those, Wang [Laboratories] and Data General were all hiring tens of thousands of people in Ireland because that's where they were manufacturing everything. People flocked there. Then they flocked back, because the whole computer industry collapsed. It makes sense to me.

Anyway, and that showed up on the streets of Moscow. Those people that came back showed up on the streets. And women were accepted and people looked at you. They looked at you. They didn't look at the ground. They didn't have their heads down. There weren't ashamed that the Soviet Union collapsed, because they were pretty pissed at [Mikhail Sergeyevich] Gorbachev, who I thought was a world hero. Even at the time, I thought he was the best guy in the world. And the Russian people, it hurt their pride. The way it happened hurt their pride. And they had a hard time handling it. They have a hard time dealing with it today. They tried to assassinate him more than once. His wife was a nice lady, and she died. Anyway, it's a colorful city now. It's a vibrant city. It's got stuff going on. It's got Starbucks. It's got McDonalds. It's got whatever the other things are, these little cafés where you can go in. It's got institutions of learning. It's got pop-up institutions of music and art and poetry and stuff. That's critical to the well-being of these artisans, these guys that perform or do whatever they do. Anyway. I'm boring you.

No, not at all. I'm going to—

[INTERRUPTION]

—cultural, or [**1:20:00**] scientific, or business. The attitude of the American government and the American people that we deposited in Moscow is horrible. Even the military, because I've been in—I went to dinner with the ambassador to Russia from the United States—McCall?

Michael McFaul.

McFaul. And I didn't like his attitude at all. And I didn't like the people who worked around with him. And I didn't like the attitude of the Marine Corps that was protecting him.

When was that?

It was during the scientific exchange forum. It was during that conference. We got invited one day. We're in the hospital and they came in and invited us to dinner. About eight or nine of us went to dinner and it was—I'd never met these guys, the guys who run the children's hospital—I do a lot for the children's hospital here in Boston. And I did some in Houston Children's Hospital [Texas Children's Hospital] in Houston. [Seth J. Corey] ran the Houston Children's Hospital, the doctor, he went to Chicago and he's running the [Northwestern University] Feinberg [School of Medicine] children's hospital in Chicago now.

Anyway, we're in this meeting and the NIH [U.S. National Institutes of Health] was there, Fogarty [International Center] with the NIH. Even the NIH's attitude stinks. They think if it didn't come from the United States and it's not our idea, it's not worth talking about, not even worth listening to. And their charge was—we're going to put this money into research in Russia. They go into Russia and they start to talk about things that the Russian medical community had no interest in, and it wasn't priorities for them. But they had their own priority list. It just so happened that I was at that meeting and I said to Fogarty, "Look, you've got to try to resolve their problems." They got economic funding problems for research, because all the research money stopped when the Soviet Union collapsed. They had no money.

You said to Fogarty?

[To Roger I. Glass at the] Fogarty Institution [sic] at the NIH in in Washington, DC. That's who took on the attempts to help. And they had money that was allocated by Congress of the United States to give to the Russian scientific community. But they were trying to dictate, and they did dictate, what it could be spent on, which had nothing to do with the needs of the hospital. I got into an argument with these guys on our side of the table, not on their side of the table. And it was at the end of the whole thing—and I still have it—the guy who was the head of Children's Hospital—I set up a collaboration in Children's Hospital in Moscow and Boston Children's Hospital, so they go back and forth and collaborate now. They didn't do that before I got involved.

The guy who was the head of the Children's Hospital was passing out favors and he had one bottle of something rummy-looking. And he gave it to me and he didn't give anything to the guy from the Fogarty Institute; nothing, the guy that I was arguing against. He gave everything to me! And the guy from the Fogarty Institute actually called him out on it. Says, "Hey, what am I getting?" He gave him a pen [laughs]. That was after the meeting. I haven't had that problem

with the NIH, because we've utilized a lot of NIH money to do Russian scientific experiments, and they've all approved it. I've had several meetings with the NIH and the Department of Defense. And they don't treat me the way they treat the people in Russia.

With you as a mediary, that's what makes this process function?

Well, it wasn't functioning very well when we had dinner with McFaul.

That must have been relatively recently, like 2012, 2013?

Yes, right around there [in 2011]. It was before he left. And he basically said in front of everybody, "You know, you can't trust the Russians." Hey, this is directly from the guy, head of the State Department in the room when it happened. [**1:25:00**] Obama got a lot of money from a pharmaceutical company to get a drug into Russia.

Obama did?

Obama. He goes into a meeting with Putin and he says to Putin, "Your pharmaceutical industry would be much better off if you accepted all of the current pharmaceutical products that are approved by the United States government." And Putin said—which I don't even blame him—"I'm more than happy to do that, President Obama, more than happy to do that if you'll approve every Russian drug in the United States simultaneously." And Obama goes, "Oh, come on, we can't do that." And [Putin] said, "You're insulting the Russian people."

How did that conversation come to you?

Right from the United States State Department, the very top. The people who were in the room at the time that that conversation happened. And Obama didn't have—he's no John Kennedy and he's no Mark Henry.

I want to show you something [unclear]. This is a publication in *Redox Biology*, which is 9.5 ranked out of scientific journals, 9.5 for the last five years. That's pretty good. Nobody's ever heard of [*Redox Biology*] journal, including yourself [puts document on table]. You're not going to have to read the whole thing. I don't want you to read the whole thing, because you'll fall asleep. But this is all Bach Pharma, one hundred percent, and it's all Russian material. Everything that went into this study. Five years by the Department of Defense in the United States spent over a million dollars on this study right here.

You mentioned this one that was going to come out soon, I believe.

It's out. I'm giving it to you, but I want to tell you how important this thing is, because I didn't even know that it's as important as it is important. Inflammation plays a major role in neurodegeneration. Inflammation does. It says right in here whether it's the cause or the effect, it doesn't matter; you got to get rid of the inflammation. That's what Dr. [Ashok K.] Shetty—this guy is a world-renowned expert on neurodegeneration. This platform drug derivative reduced all inflammation in all diseases involving neuroinflammation—ALS [Amyotrophic Lateral

Sclerosis], Parkinson's [disease], he talks about Parkinson's in here, Gulf War illness, chemical poisoning of the brain, Huntington's disease, ataxia-telangiectasia. And we've done three animal models, three successful, on inflammation. This just came out, or it's coming out in—they sent me this—but it's coming out in January 2020. You're going to see it in 2020.[8]

You can get rid of inflammation in the brain. Biggest problem with ALS—inflammation of the brain. In ALS, there's a familiar version and a non-familiar version. SOD1, is hereditary; SOD2 is not. SOD2 is the binding of copper and zinc in the brain. This drug neutralizes it, because it's a heavy metal chelator. And it chelates those two to regulate so they don't stick together. And when they bind, you got a problem in the brain, that's ALS. It unbinds it. Is that unbelievable? [**1:30:00**] We got to get to someone. I just got this thing. You can see I'm writing. I got many copies of this, but I'm writing all over it.

What this drug does—this is how powerful a drug this is—I can grow new neurons in your brain. It's all in here, pictures of neurons. You see how I read? [Turns pages] These are the neurons. What you really want to have is activity, right? And these are all different—this is the vehicle. This is naive. This is no chemical poisoning in your brain, no inflammation. And then you can see the degradation, and then there's low dose, medium dose, and high dose. Look at the high dose and the medium. Look at the quality of the neurons. It's unbelievable. So, this really tells you what's going on. But you just want to take a look at this and gain an appreciation for the research that was done in the United States on a Russian material that nobody believed in.

This is just very coincidental timing, then, for us having this conversation.

Right, yes. I just got it the other day.

Is this the first study coming out explaining what this drug does, that you've been working—it's been two decades now?

No, no, no. That's about the fiftieth. But nothing had to do with CNS.

CNS?

The central nervous system. It didn't have anything to do with the brain. Everything we did was in the body, on cancers and tumors and T cells and stuff like that. We've always been working with healing, trying to get the body to heal faster and better. And we did a movie on a guy who was totally dead, twenty minutes he was dead, they brought him back to life, still alive today. That was eight years ago.

What's the movie?

I got the movie. We grew a new bone on his thigh. The bone was gone, they were going to do a transplant in Boston. The doctor called me up and said, "What do you got this guy on?" I said, "A Russian drug." He said, "Keep giving it to him because I've never seen a bone grow back like this."

Do you remember the name of the movie off the top of your head?

I got the movie, it's not my name—it's Jim Sheridan [phonetic], is the name of it. But anyway, it's bone regeneration. And I have a lot of slides on bone regeneration, how it works, what happens, why it does, you might enjoy some of that stuff. I don't know if you're into broken bones and stuff. Splint and broken, his leg was crushed.

Oh, when you say movie, you mean it was filmed, not that a movie was produced out of it.

No, it's not a movie that was produced out of it.

Okay, that's alright. I misunderstood.

It's a movie that we produced, it's a CD-ROM that we have. And I have a number of those things. We didn't know it did bone regeneration. The reason we gave him this drug was for physical therapy because he couldn't walk. He was in a coma for seven weeks. He came out of the coma and they were trying to get him to do physical therapy. But because this drug is such a—its electronic transfer, its electrons being discharged in the human body, and it perks you up. It got him to be able to do physical therapy so that he got to the point where he could walk down the two parallel bars, then he got to the point where he was in a walker and on crutches and now he walks around with you and me. But it took a year to regrow the bone.

But we didn't expect that. The doctor in Boston called us up and said, "Hey, what were you doing? What are you doing with this guy?" I said, "Well, what's going on?" He said, "He's growing a new bone; I've never seen anything like it." Now if you take a picture of his leg—perfect bone. And if you have the old pictures, you'll see the plates, the screws, everything was all holding it all together. It was gross, it was absolutely gross.

I think we must have skipped a step in the story, because with the original treatment that you were talking about from Russia, I think we left off that that failed at the FDA level.

No. The manufacturing didn't meet the GMP standards.

Yes, so then what happened after that?

We took it to the UK [**1:35:00**] and we improved it, and the Russians came, the Germans came, everybody came to the UK, Gillingham. And we spent time there—

Oh, that's what you—okay, right. That was after.

Yes, and we manufactured it. Now we take some of the new material, I sent it down to MD Anderson Cancer Center and I said, "I want you to try this; as a matter of fact, I want to switch over all the research from the Russian material to this research material." The doctor from MD Anderson calls up and says, "It's twenty percent more powerful. You don't need as much of it, so we can accomplish the same results with a smaller dose." I'm going, you've got to be kidding me. I never expected that. Anyway, that's what happened. And that was funny, that was just the

funny part of it. I thought it was pretty good. But, so it was a hundred percent pure, it is sterile, it's GMP manufactured, it's more soluble.

[INTERRUPTION]

I spent a lot of time with U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce. In Boston, we have a U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce in Boston. It's a committee; it's a group. And we have Christmas parties and go to Russian restaurants, and we do a lot of stuff. We do have a lot of fun. But, yes, I've been involved for a long time, just to make the connections and bring people over to speak and take people from here over there to speak. It's been interesting. We ran a whole session at Harvard. We have a place called the Harvard Club in downtown Boston, and it's really Harvard University. And we ran speaking events there. We haven't done it in the last couple of years because some things don't work, but—can't get a passport.

Anyway, we brought over one of the guys who worked in Washington, DC for the U.S. patent office. Then he went to Moscow. He worked in the patent office in Moscow, and then he came back here. And when he came back, he stopped and came and spoke at our conference, at our meeting in the Harvard Club in Boston, and I was the second speaker. Because they wanted to know, how did the Russians handle this before they had a patent office? Everything was a secret. All technology was a secret. And the government owned what the government owned. And if you weren't the right power you didn't get in to see any of it. You could never get into the Russian Academy of Sciences.

You could never get in?

Nobody could get in, in the beginning.

Well, so what do you mean? When you say get in, what do you mean get in?

It's a phenomenal facility, but it's—

Oh, to use the facility?

All the research is going on in that building, in that one complex of buildings.[9]

Right. That looks like the brain, yes.

That—weird looking.

It is very weird looking.

Some of those guys in there are so smart, you wouldn't believe it. And I got in their labs; I got to talk to them; I got to meet with everybody. You go in to speak, and people come in and listen to you speak, and they have the translators there in about five different languages. You put the headphones on and you get it in whatever language you want. Have you been into that environment?

I have not. I have friends who have. I have friends who research there, who are historians, and so they use the archives. But not the labs guys.

They're not the lab guys?

No.

The lab rats. I've been there a couple of times. Tatiana Grishina, she's taken me in there, and then the U.S.-Russian scientific exchange forum, we had several meetings there. We met with the minister of health there. She and I spoke on the same podium.

Is there some controversy about the current Russian minister of health?

I don't even know who it is. It was a woman at the time; she was the wife of a friend of Putin's who had a political appointment himself, and she was an accountant.[10] And they put her in there to straighten that organization out. She gave a speech, which didn't get to any of the issues that everybody is currently concerned about. And it's not just me, because we were there with Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Bach, and two other pharmacy companies there. We all have the same problems, and nobody listens. But nobody listens in the United States if you go to Washington.

You know what I like about Ireland? Town hall. You go to the top government official and you walk out shaking hands, sit down and talk to him for about [**1:35:00**] twenty minutes or thirty minutes. No big deal. Minister of health, sit down and talk to him, I had seventeen people in the room with the guy. And then he called in his director of this and his director of that and then they all just came in, and we're all sitting there having a chat. What can we do here? And how do we do this? What do you need? And the Irish person said—we're spending our money on cancer treatments for skin diseases in Ireland, which is a very common problem because they don't have the sun.

They got two thousand years and no sun, like you. And you go to Italy, and they don't have anybody that has it because they got the oils, and they got the sun, and they had everything. But twenty-five, fifty generations, and they just don't have the same problems that they have in Ireland. And the guy said, "Look, we'll give you forty percent of the cost of the clinical trial, but we want you to use the Russian material and blah, blah, blah. And we'll accept the Russian data." The FDA refused to accept the Russian data that we translated, because the product wasn't manufactured in GMP conditions. They refused to even look at the data. And we had so much data. You can't believe how much data we had. Now we got it in English—you're going to see some data. Anyway. I'm just getting wound up.

Thank you so much for your time.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

[1] Uncaria Tomentosa.

[2] For a description of the military origins of Galavit from Johns Hopkins Medicine, see: https://utexas.box.com/shared/static/o1zh0qapr3dxzx6jyyiw9nzq5hd5fzqy.pdf
[3] For background on the monument, see official website here: http://www.911monument.com and article here: https://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/30/nyregion/our-towns-a-jersey-city-teardrop-for-9-11-or-a-10-story-embarrassment.html
[4] More than 300 people, including many children, were killed in the 2004 Beslan school hostage crisis. For further background, see: https://www.rferl.org/a/emotions-high-beslan-school-attack-masscre-russia/30139763.html
[5] Refers to the demolition of the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow in 1931.
[6] Sheila M. Puffer, Daniel J. McCarthy and Daniel M. Satinsky, *Hammer and Silicon: The Soviet Diaspora in the US Innovation Economy - Immigration, Innovation, Institutions, Imprinting, and Identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
[7] Zhilov was appointed first deputy prime minister of Russia's Kabardino-Balkarian Republic in 2012 (see: https://sk-news.ru/news/authority/15467). He remained in the post until February 2020, shortly after this interview was recorded (see: https://ria.ru/20121031/908169532.html).
[8] See article here: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213231719311437
[9] Refers to the Russian Academy of Science complex, often referred to as the "Golden Brain."
[10] Tatyana Alexeyevna Golikova was Minister of Health and Social Development from 2007-2012, having worked previously in various posts for the Ministry of Finance since 1990.