



**UNIVANTS™**  
OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE

# UNIFY

FOR SOMETHING GREATER

## A Conversation with Abbott's Tricia Ravalico

New paradigms require new approaches, including collaboration across the care continuum to better serve patients. Abbott and leading global healthcare organizations launched the first annual UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award to recognize healthcare teams that have integrated across disciplines to lead best practices in the care delivery process and demonstrate measurably better outcomes as a result.

### What is the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award Program and why is Abbott embarking on this effort?

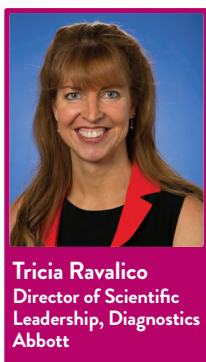
Healthcare is undergoing massive transformation. What we envision for the future of healthcare is a bigger focus on prevention and integration of disciplines and care processes. What we've noticed globally is that institutions that lead the way in this area are making significant use of clinical data. Abbott foresees measurably improved outcomes when the lab and other partners are better integrated into the overall care team and equipped with powerful insights.

This award is intended to highlight best practices, to inspire unity, and to encourage novel, avant-garde ways of thinking. This award is designed to show that, with integration of clinical care, measurably better healthcare performance can be achieved with a demonstrated impact on patients, payors, clinicians and entire health systems.

### Why is it important for care teams to be integrated across disciplines?

It's almost like trying to solve a puzzle without all the pieces of the puzzle. Emergency triage is a good example: If emergency departments are too busy, they may have to divert patients to other healthcare institutions, which is not good for the patient nor the institution. While hospitals are always trying to optimize patient flow and reduce waste, the clinical lab may not be perceived as a critical player in that effort.

What we have to understand is that sometimes test results aren't just test results — lab innovations can help improve patient flow through the system, uncover new insights and/or change clinical care pathways. Regardless of discipline, if all stakeholders aren't at the table, information can be missed,



**Tricia Ravalico**  
Director of Scientific  
Leadership, Diagnostics  
Abbott

and these types of opportunities can be neglected. You need all the stakeholders present to be able to come up with novel approaches to complex problems.

### What does the ideal winner of this award look like?

What we're really looking for is demonstrated, measurable change. This award is designed to advance health systems and achieve measurably better performance, regardless of where you currently stand. We're looking for integrated clinical care teams who have demonstrated success in metrics quantified by key performance indicators (KPIs) that impact patients, payors, clinicians and health systems.

The quantitative metrics can be vastly different across care projects and disciplines. The common elements are that teams are working together, using clinical data in unique ways, and measuring the impact of their project across the entire care continuum.

### True to the theme, "Unify for Something Greater," Abbott has brought together several leading organizations as partners in this award. Why have you chosen to partner with these organizations?

We're thrilled to be working with amazing partners in this initiative. Together, we have a joint mission and a huge opportunity to lead by example. This isn't just an Abbott award — all of our partners have pledged to recognize and support healthcare organizations that work together and break down silos for the sake of patient care.

### Why should healthcare leaders apply for this award?

Winners of this award are novel thinkers who have looked past their silos for the betterment of patient care. They're unsung heroes, and this is their opportunity to be recognized for their best practice. Everyone loves to be recognized for their successes, but that isn't the main reason leaders will apply for this award. Rather, the winners are people who want to disseminate best practices that will improve care throughout the world, and this award is a vehicle that will help them do that.

Submissions are open through March 31. Apply now at [UnivantsHCE.com](https://UnivantsHCE.com).



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