

Recognizing Valued Advocates of the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards is a collaborative and global initiative among eight leading healthcare organizations including the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), AACC, EHMA (European Health Management Association), Modern Healthcare, Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), National Association of Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) and the Institute of Health Economics (IHE) and Abbott Laboratories. The program inspires unification across healthcare disciplines to drive measurable benefits via key performance indicators for patients, payors, clinicians and entire health systems. As their mission resonates with health champions across the globe, strong advocates have emerged to support awareness of the award and to reinforce opportunities for healthcare transformation. This article spotlights ten early advocates of the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program, all of whom are also world leaders in their respective fields with proven success in advancing healthcare.



Dr. Mus Aida
Chief Operating Officer,
RS PONDOK INDAH –
BINTARO JAYA, Indonesia

Dr. Aida has been a patient advocate and healthcare champion for over 30 years. As a multi-year Chairwoman (2015-2018, 2018-2021) for the Achievement and Awards for PERSI (Indonesian Hospital Association) and as past Chairwoman of ARSSI (Indonesian Private Hospital Association), Dr. Aida has a legacy of inspiring and recognizing innovation and teamwork in healthcare. Her partnership with Abbott and the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program has stimulated multiple clinical care projects across Indonesia and has inspired healthcare leaders across Asia Pacific to explore and leverage on novel insights from laboratory medicine for broader impact across patients, payors, clinicians and health systems.

“The principles of the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program align nicely with the mission of PERSI to inspire innovation and improved outcomes in healthcare. It is my hope that through our partnership, we further enhance integration of clinical care across the world with valued best practices from Indonesia.”



Paul L. Epner,
MBA, MEd
Chief Executive Officer
and Co-Founder, Society
to Improve Diagnosis in
Medicine (SIDM)
Chair, Coalition to
Improve Diagnosis

Paul’s legacy as a champion and advocate for laboratory medicine has spanned across leadership roles for over 40 years and includes both national and international collaborations with leading healthcare societies, health systems, patient organizations, and organizations focused on improving quality. He has founded, created, and/or been directly linked to world renown initiatives including Labs R Vital, Increasing Clinical Effectiveness (ICE) initiative, Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM), and Coalition to Improve Diagnosis. He currently serves on the National Steering Committee for Patient Safety and was both a member of the CDC’s recent initiatives “Clinical Laboratory Integration into Healthcare Collaborative (CLIHCTM)” and a consultant to their Laboratory Medicine Best Practices (LMBP) program (an evidence-based practice initiative).

“Laboratory physicians and scientists should be valued as members of the healthcare team who not only provide accurate, timely, and low cost test results, but also collaborate on the appropriate ordering of tests, the timely retrieval of results and the evidence-based application of clinical information in order to ensure an accurate and timely diagnosis thereby improving patient outcomes. The UNIVANTS program is commendable for spotlighting those laboratorians who are putting this philosophy into practice and delivering on that value.”



**Stephen Hill,
PhD, FCACB**

*Associate Professor,
Pathology and Molecular
Medicine, McMaster
University*

With special thanks to Dr. Stephen Hill, Canada quickly became one of the top most engaged countries for the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program. As president and past president of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemistry (CSCC), Dr. Stephen Hill was quick to encourage valued applications from his CSCC members, leading to distinguished program recognition for a Canadian care team within the award program's inaugural year. Canadian momentum remains strong with additional submissions underway for the upcoming award cycle in 2020. Dr. Hill leads by example through action and service, championing advocacy for Laboratory Medicine through education and legacy of outstanding leadership with the Ontario Society of Clinical Chemistry (OSCC), Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (CACB), Chemistry Committee of the Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare (IQMH), and the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry including his role on the Executive Board as the 2021-2023 Elected Representative of the North American Federation of Clinical Chemistry (NAFCC).

“What inspires me most about the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program is the opportunity to celebrate valued best practices in healthcare in order to inspire new ones. The time is NOW for laboratorians to act and lead through the valued insights of the contribution of laboratory medicine to healthcare.”



Usman Khan, PhD

*Managing Director,
Modus Europe Limited*

Dr. Usman Khan has over 20 years of experience in public policy and management. He has held Board of Director positions in public, private, and not for profit organizations with proven success in leading change management across projects, countries and internationally. He is an active promoter of the patient voice with recent executive directorship at the European Patients Forum (EPA), and previous to that, as the Executive Director at the European Health Management Association (EHMA). Dr. Khan encourages idea sharing and is focused on strategy development, board leadership, as well as public and user involvement in regulatory and policy development.

“The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program is a unique and highly valuable platform for collaboration in the field of laboratory medicine. At this challenging moment for global health systems, the space created to share and celebrate effective best practices has never been more important.”



**Masato Maekawa,
MD, PhD**

*Professor of Laboratory
Medicine, Hamamatsu
University School of
Medicine*

Professor Maekawa is a brilliant and recognized leader in the fields of Clinical Chemistry, Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Molecular Medicine. His passion for advancing patient care through innovation, precision medicine and global harmonization has inspired champions of action across organizations, including the Japanese Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC), where Prof. Maekawa has served as President for five consecutive years. Under his leadership, the JSCC has not only expanded in size, but has rapidly become one of the most active communities of healthcare excellence. For the past two years, Japan has among the top 10 most engaged countries for the UNVANTS of the Healthcare Excellence Award Program.

“The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award inspires healthcare teams to work together in partnership with laboratory medicine to create best practices of Healthcare Excellence. That effort is closely aligned with the JSCC mission to develop innovative clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine techniques that advance healthcare. We will work side by side on this project.”



Dr. Wilson Shcolnik

President, Brazilian Association of Diagnostic Medicine (ABRAMED)

Dr. Wilson Shcolnik quickly became one of the earliest program advocates for the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program. As a long-time supporter of healthcare quality, Dr. Shcolnik is passionate and well-published in the field of error reduction. He has been an active leader in Laboratory Medicine within Brazil, Latin America and across the globe. He is a fellow of the Brazilian College of Health Executives (CBEX-RJ), a member of the Working Group on Laboratory errors and patient safety of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the President of ABRAMED, Brazilian Association of Diagnostic Medicine. Prof. Wilson embraced both award principals of UNIFYING and being AVANT-GARDE during his presidency of the SBPC/ML (Brazilian Society of Clinical Pathology), encouraging healthcare teams to quantify their measurable value to patients, payors, clinicians and health systems. Under his leadership, Brazil became one of the top 10 most engaged countries associated with the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program.

“Recognition of best practices helps to elevate the profession of laboratory medicine, enhance patient care, and inspire new best practices. With teamwork and synthesis of relevant data, integrated teams can transform the delivery of care in measurably impactful ways. The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award is an excellent program, providing opportunities for recognition across the globe.”



Khosrow R. Shotorbani, MBA, MT (ASCP)

*Founder, CEO, Lab 2.0 Strategic Services, LLC
President, Executive Director, Project Santa Fe Foundation*

Khosrow R. Shotorbani has become world renown for the Clinical Lab 2.0 movement, reaching tens of thousands of healthcare professionals across the globe through his key note talks in recent years alone. As founder of Lab 2.0 Strategic Services, LLC., and President, and Executive Director of Project Santa Fe Foundation, he champions and advocates for new frontiers that define future economic valuation and placement of diagnostic services. As the former President and Chief Executive Officer at a leading reference laboratory in the United States, Khosrow is well-versed in establishing corporate directions and strategies that cultures of innovation with proved success in operations, growth, and driving financial health. He leads with the premise and track record of improving health outcomes, driving population health and lowering overall costs of delivery by predictive utilization of laboratory data.

“I am believer that by the time we have waited long enough to label a person ‘patient’, we have failed that person. What if we are actually able to intervene before the condition is advanced. The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program focuses on intervention, prevention, patient engagement...even as far as even consumer engagement. I’m aligned to these philosophies very much.”



Angela Velkova

*Director of Communities and Strategic Relations
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)*

HIMSS Communities bring together health IT professionals from public and private sectors across regions to exchange innovative ideas, discuss trends, challenges and solutions. Angela has been galvanizing these self-organizing groups both virtually and in person, delivering unrivalled opportunities for health professionals who share the same language to socialize, network and uncover solutions to common issues. In support of HIMSS global vision to realize the full health potential of every human, everywhere, Angela is entrusted the task to identify, link and unlock synergies among stakeholders, policies and practice for amplified community impact and diffusion of innovation in healthcare. She has been an active champion in the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program and was first to establish the #UNIVANTS following on LinkedIn in 2018.

“With the global health ecosystem experiencing the most significant pandemic of our lifetime, the need to work across disciplines and achieve health excellence goes beyond putting into spotlight exemplary cases of integrated healthcare. UNIVANTS is about saving lives and building more prepared and resilient health system of tomorrow. UNIVANTS aims to unify us all for something greater and work collaboratively in reaching milestones in healthcare. Together.”



Sten Westgard, MS

*Director of Client Services and
Technology, Westgard QC, Inc.*

With unprecedented reach to laboratorians across the world, Westgard QC, Inc. has been instrumental in driving change and leading education associated with the power of Six Sigma quality in healthcare. For the past 25 years, Sten Westgard has been active in leading valued initiatives including the Westgard website, course portal, blog, and online training. Sten Westgard also founded and created the Westgard Sigma Verification Program for health systems seeking new ways to validate the performance of their instruments. Since Six Sigma quality directly relates to high quality healthcare, Sten recognizes the vital role of laboratory medicine to Healthcare.

“UNIVANTS highlights the most vital truth of our time: laboratory results make a huge impact on patients and society. Before everyone else recognized this fact, UNIVANTS was there, championing the laboratory and honoring their efforts.”



Ian S. Young, MD

*Professor of Medicine,
Queens University Belfast
Chief Scientific Advisor,
Department of Health,
Northern Ireland*

Professor Ian Young has actively researched and advocated for healthcare excellence throughout his long history of distinguished leadership roles. As previous Chair for the Scientific Division of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), member of the UK Government’s Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, Past President of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine (ACB), member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the UK National Institute of Biological Standards and Controls, and author of over 350 research papers, Professor Young appreciates the power of laboratory medicine to advance science and patient care. It was under his term as President of the ACB when two integrated clinical care teams within the UK were recognized for the inaugural 2019 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards. Soon after, Professor Young was invited to support the program’s first executive roundtable at the 2019 AACC with other award winners and healthcare leaders to discuss future trends and healthcare transformation.

“The UNIVANTS award is a fantastic initiative for healthcare teams to demonstrate how they can jointly improve patient care. I strongly encourage everyone who works in collaboration with clinicians and laboratory professionals to consider applying.”