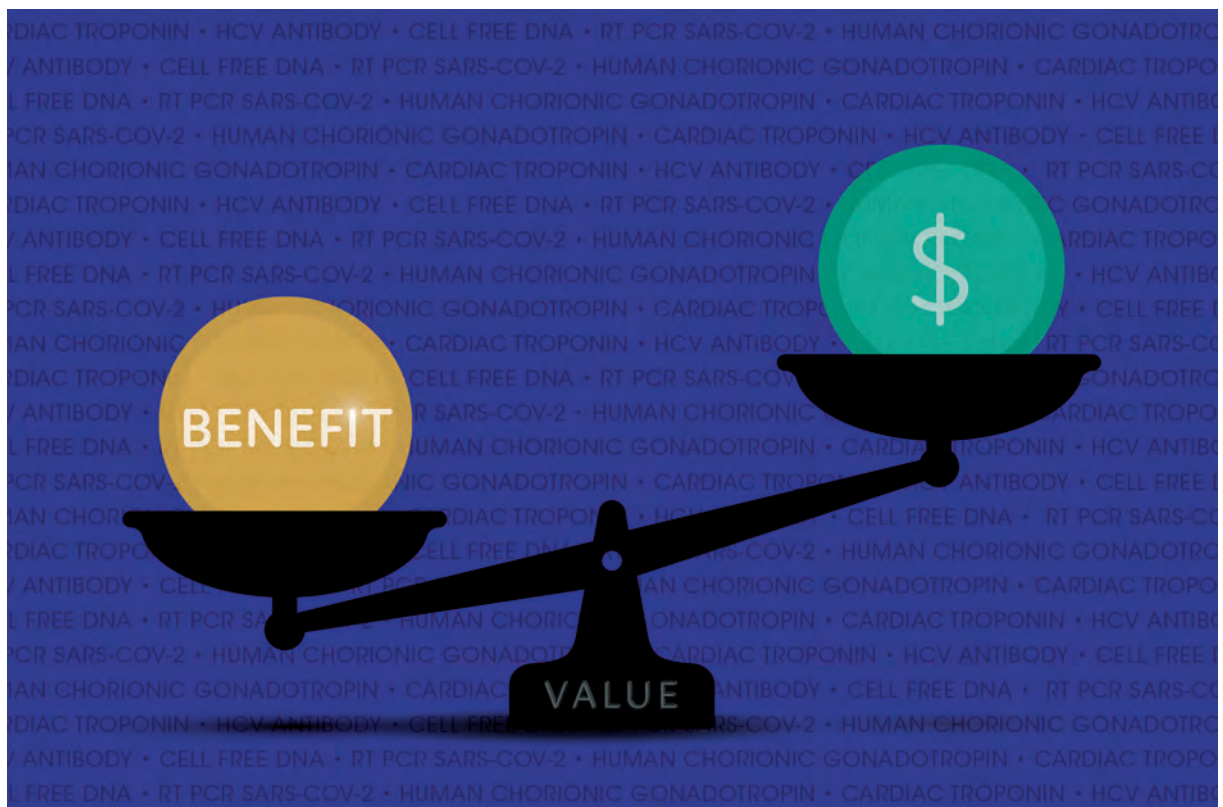


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*Better health through
laboratory medicine.*

Shining a Light on the Value of Laboratory Medicine—UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program

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Clinical laboratories are vital to healthcare, generating actionable data and valued insights for predictive risk management, preventative health, and integrated care. Clinical laboratorians, however, have not been traditionally recognized for their full potential. Thus, there is need to reinforce the power of laboratory medicine more broadly, including elevation of successful best practices whereby the leadership and/or involvement of laboratory medicine enables measurable benefits for patients, payors, clinicians, and entire health systems. It is incumbent upon each of us as champions of the clinical laboratory to get the word out on the value of laboratory testing. We need to lead with action, drive change, and inspire trusted collaborations across health disciplines through strategic application of laboratory data to achieve measurably better healthcare across the globe.

One successful initiative in promoting, inspiring, and recognizing representative best practices is the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award Program. Eight leading healthcare organizations have partnered together to offer prestigious and global recognition for integrated clinical care

teams who have achieved exceptional outcomes in healthcare. The partner organizations interface with and represent varied disciplines across the healthcare continuum, reinforcing the importance of unity and/or partnerships both within and outside the clinical laboratory. Founding partners of the program include 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); each through partnerships with Abbott Laboratories.

Twelve diverse best practices were recognized by the program in 2019, shining a spotlight on the value of laboratory medicine and its corresponding impact on key performance indicators (KPIs) for patients, payers, clinicians, and health systems. Foundational principals across winning teams are denoted within the award name, as each team “UNIFIED” across traditional healthcare silos to implement “AVANTE-GARDE” processes. The latter

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UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE WINNERS		
Intelligent Liver Function Testing (iLFT): A Cost-Effective Way to Increase Early Diagnosis of Liver Disease <i>University of Dundee</i>	John Dillon Ellie Dow Michael Hugh Miller	Elizabeth Furie Ian Kennedy Jennifer Nobes
Improved Diagnostic Pathway and Treatment for Hospitalized Patients with Acute Kidney Injury <i>Ernst von Bergmann Hospital with the Dialysis Center Potsdam and the Diaverum Kidney Care Center MVZ Potsdam affiliated with Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg</i>	Michael Haase Elisabeth Engelmann Saban Elitok	Annemarie Albert Jens Ringel
Improving the Safety of Mothers and Babies Using Angiogenic Biomarkers for Pre-Eclampsia <i>Clinical Biochemistry, Oxford University NHS Foundation Trust</i>	Tim James Manu Vatish Matthew Covill	Guy Checketts Julia Eades Sofia Cerdeira
UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION OF DISTINCTION		
Improving Clinical and Quality Outcomes for Prenatal Care – A Clinical Laboratory Driven Initiative <i>TriCore Reference Laboratories</i>	Kathleen Swanson David Grenache Amy Freeman	Mark Koenig Eugene Sun Eve Espey
The Global Impact of Troponin and Biomarkers on Ischemic Myocardial Injury and Surgical Care <i>Hamilton Health Sciences/Population Health Research Institute</i>	Matthew McQueen Peter Kavsak PJ Devereaux	Daniel Sessler Ralph Meyer Emmanuelle Duceppe
Identifying Untreated Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C via Opt-out Screening Program in Urban ED Settings <i>Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust</i>	Sam Douthwaite Jane Mullen Gaia Nebbia	Laura Hunter Terry Wong
Improving Quality, Patient Care & Experience, while Lowering Costs through Enhanced Laboratory Stewardship <i>Cleveland Clinic</i>	Gary Procop Robert Wyllie	Anita Reddy Brian Rubin
Avoiding Insufficient Therapies and Overdosing with Co-Reporting eGFRs for Personalized Drug Therapy and Improved Outcomes <i>Marienhospital</i>	Matthias Orth Karin Johanna Haase	Sebastian Maus Manfred Hofmann
Optimization of Heart Failure Management using Biomarkers in Patients with Low Risk for Rehospitalization <i>University Medical Center Groningen</i>	Wouter Meijers Martje van der Wal	Anneke Muller-Kobold Rudolf de Boer
FH ALERT: Identification of Patients with Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH) by using the Expertise and Resources of the Clinical Laboratory <i>SYNLAB Holding Deutschland GmbH</i>	Winfried März Felix Fath Mathias Barresi	Adrienne Schmittat Uwe Fraass
UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT		
Maximizing Patient Care and Reducing Mortality through Expanded Investments in Laboratory Medicine Including a Comprehensive External Quality System <i>Palestinian Medical Technology Association</i>	Osama Najjar Lana Nazzal Nidal Alawneh	Ali Alhelou Dergham Yaseen
Increased Population Engagement, Enhanced Patient Experience and Safe Blood Donations Through Strategic Partnerships and Targeted Media Campaigns <i>Dubai Health Authority</i>	May Raouf Humaid Al Qatami	Sawsan Trabously Ranjita Sharma

Fig. 1. Winning Teams of the 2019 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards including Global Winners (3), Sites of Distinction (7) and Sites of Achievement (2).

ranged from strategic new care delivery models, activation of partnerships with care providers, and/or implementation of new care pathways to drive improved outcomes.

More details about the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program or the care teams featured in Figure 1 that were recognized for their best practices can be found on the program website at www.UnivantsHCE.com. Their success stories, in addition to the valued articles

being featured in this special collection, are brilliant proof of the value position for laboratory medicine.

Reduced clinical uncertainty. Improved patient wellness. Enhanced reputation. Increased clinical confidence. Decreased costs. Increased patient safety. These are just a few of the most frequently observed benefits shared by the integrated teams who submitted best practices in the program's inaugural year. Their success begs the question:

How can more health systems achieve comparable success? What more can be done to inspire that success?

Imagine, for example, if the traditional health-care siloes and/or activity-based services shifted to patient-focused services empowered by the integration of health and social care. Consider the myriad of expanded possibilities if the value proposition of laboratory medicine was no longer debated or misunderstood, but rather fully comprehended across stakeholders for its value in accurate test reporting and expansive potential in diagnostic optimization, therapeutic intervention, and population health management. To make this happen, we must all do our part.

Not unlike the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program, which encourages a mindset

shift through the education of remarkable best practices, we can all promote the power and value of laboratory medicine. As more healthcare teams “UNIFY for SOMETHING GREATER,” more best practices will undoubtedly emerge. Sharing those success stories will lead to more success stories and new ideas that can further galvanize new teams and drive even more success. By reinforcing what is possible, we can achieve more, including elevation of patient care and redefining the a new “possible.”

The time is now to get involved and get the word out. Let’s celebrate the success of others, inspire advocacy for the clinical laboratory and for worldwide global healthcare. The takeaway is clear and the message needs to be heard. . . Laboratory Medicine saves lives.

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