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A Warm 'Thank You' to Laboratory Leaders from the UNIVANTS Award Program

As the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program closes the application cycle for the 2021 calendar year, a key takeaway for all healthcare professionals is that Laboratory Medicine continues to be an essential and innovative discipline for transformational healthcare. Not unlike the previous two years, applications were received from across the globe, with over 165 countries actively engaging on the program website and sharing best practices of measurably better healthcare.

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program was initiated in 2018 with a call to action for healthcare teams to "UNIFY for Something Greater" to inspire and share measurable examples where insights from laboratory medicine have enabled valued benefits to patients, payors, clinicians and entire health systems. Hundreds of applications have been initiated since program inception with over 75 applications initiated in 2021. All submitted applications are now being assessed for eligibility prior to advancing to judge review where each eligible application gets independently scored by experts across seven of the eight prestigious partner organizations. The judge organizations include the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (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). Note that the eighth partner and founding creator of the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program, Abbott, sponsors multiple aspects of the award program but has no role in the scoring of the submitting applications.

More details about the 2021 winners will be announced in summer 2022. In the interim, the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program invites laboratory leaders to continue their excellent and meaningful contributions to healthcare. The time is now for strategic brainstorming and activation of proposals that solve care gaps across existing disease burdens and/or drive population wellness for measurable better healthcare. There is no better time than now to unify across disciplines and innovate using valued insights from laboratory medicine. Often healthcare teams are making a difference, but not quantifying their success in a measurable way. The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program requires outcomes in the form of key performance indicators to measure that success with the understanding that those success factors will help other care teams across the globe be equally as successful.

Examples of formerly-recognized best practices can be found on the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program website at **www.UnivantsHCE.com**. We invite you to join the movement, share in the best practices, submit photos of your team for the gallery and ideally become candidates for the 2022 awards with applications being requested by August of 2022.

"We are so proud of all healthcare leaders who submitted applications this year to the 2021 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program. Achieving measurably better healthcare performance and measuring the cascade of value across the healthcare continuum is difficult even without the extra stress of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, each of the teams this year has not only gone above and beyond to meet the rising demands of healthcare today, but have become leaders of the future. Thank you for your commitment to healthcare excellence, for elevating the value of laboratory medicine and for being transformational leaders," comments Dr. Melissa Ryan, Scientific Leader at Abbott.

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