

UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence: More Than an Award

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The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award celebrates multidisciplinary collaborations between laboratory medicine and other health specialties that join together to address unmet needs including access to healthcare delivery, institutional effectiveness, and improving patient journeys. The UNIVANTS name has its roots from the prefix *UNI* from *unite*, signifying cross-discipline engagement toward important patient improvement goals, with the suffix *VANTS* from *avant-garde*, which conveys the thoughtful, innovative processes and methods that benefit stakeholders including patients and their loved ones, laboratory medicine, clinician services, payors, and health systems. The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award program was created by Abbott and is advocated worldwide by diverse professional associations across all facets of healthcare including the AACC and IFCC, laboratory management organizations, the European Health Management Association, National Academy for Healthcare Quality, Institute of Health Economics, Health Information and Management Systems Society, and *Modern Healthcare*, a twice-monthly publication with a circulation of 70 000 that is oriented toward the needs and interests of healthcare executives.

Award-winning teams for this prestigious healthcare award have been documented previously (1, 2); the new 2021 best practices are now announced in Fig. 1. In all cases, valued outcomes were facilitated through innovation, teamwork, and incorporation of the laboratory's central role in driving and delivering actionable and productive collaborations involving healthcare groups at the institutional, health system, national, and international levels. Principles associated with success include accomplishing and sustaining health improvements with broadly beneficial outcomes through the establishment of meaningful, quantitative, and some qualitative key performance indicators.

Rather than being solely an achievement award, the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program is much more informative because it includes a structured, step-by-step process that serves as a resource template for effectively designing, organizing, implementing, and monitoring process improvement projects. Further, the UNIVANTS award program can be used to gain a fresh view of existing processes, and its principles can be utilized to broaden and improve stakeholder involvement and overall effectiveness. The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards foster excellence with the following fundamental tenets:

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UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE GLOBAL WINNERS		
Sustained 97% Opt-out HIV testing in the Emergency Department: Getting to Zero AIDS — <i>Croydon University Hospital</i>	Ian Cormack Mike Bell Leslie Perry	Sarah Horne Linda Cheyenne Vaccari Andrew Widdowson
Enhancing Personalized Care for Heart Failure Patients: A Risk-Scoring EMR Model — <i>Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Hospital</i>	Jason Guichard Sandi Stoudenmire Stephanie Flippin	Beverly Jameson Bath Whitiz
Utilizing an Innovative Approach to Process Improvement in the Era of a Global Pandemic and the Great Resignation: Rapidly Improving Timeliness of Laboratory Test Results for Multidisciplinary Rounds in an Acute Care Setting — <i>Banner Health and Laboratory Sciences of Arizona</i>	Kimm Wuestenberg Timothy Hersom Kevin Cruz	Connie Moreno Teri Dahn
UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION OF DISTINCTION		
Preventing Cardiovascular Disease in a Large Client Population Through Proactive, Cost-Effective and Enhanced Identification of Cardiovascular Risk Using a Novel Laboratory Test — <i>Medcan Health Management Inc.</i>	Peter Nord Peter Baxter Shaun Francis	Neil Mahon Yogini Walli
Addressing Covid Clinical and Translational Challenges Via Multidiscipline Integrated Diagnostics Networks — <i>UHCW NHS Trust and Warwick Medical School</i>	Dimitris Grammatopoulos Harpal Randeja Lisa Berry	Asad Ali Neil Anderson
Improving Morbidity and Mortality in Patients with Sepsis — <i>King Abdulaziz Medical City – Jeddah</i>	Abobakar Yagoot Mohammed Al Mohammadi Ali Bawazeer Bilqasem Al Barakati	Fahad Al Hameed Asim Al Saeedi Anwar Borai
UNIVANTS OF HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT		
Improved Patient Pathway for Diagnosis, Follow Up and Monitoring of Multiple Myeloma(MM); A Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration to Improve the Pathway from the Initial Request to Long-Term Monitoring — <i>Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</i>	Kate Fenna Noel Ryan Kirsty Gordon	Ross Sadler Simon Whitehead Francis Smith
Enhanced Discrimination of Myocardial Injury in a Pediatric Population Using Age-Specific Biomarker Reference Intervals — <i>Yantai Yuhuangding Hospital</i>	Guoshen Chen Chengming Sun Lei Chen	Yanjie Ding Guangyu Zhou
Early Detection of Unsuspected Cardiovascular Risk in Asymptomatic Blood Donors — <i>UOC Medicina Trasfusionale AOOR Villa Sofia-Cervello</i>	Patrizia Carta Francesco Arcoleo Francesco Gioia	Calogero Falletta Aurelio Maggio
Renal Osteodystrophy Monitoring by Monthly PTH Determination in Hemodialysis CKD-MBD Patients — <i>University Hospital Centre Zagreb & Polyclinic Avitum</i>	Sanda Jelisavac Cosic Drasko Pavlovic Boris Kudumija	
Improving Cancer Patients Safety, Confidence and Clinical Care Through Screening Healthcare Workers for Neutralizing COVID-19 IgG Antibodies and Establishing a COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Bank at KHCC — <i>King Hussein Cancer Foundation and Center</i>	Maher Sughayer Hala Al Salahat Mohammed Owdeh	Lina Souan Ataa Al-Shorman
Early Diagnosis of Acute Kidney Injury in Hospitalized Patients with Comorbidities — <i>Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital & Medical Research Institute</i>	Barnali Das Urja Parakh Poonam M Pal Umesh Varjyani	Nirajan Kulkarni Sharad Sheth Santosh S Shetty
Optimizing the Care, Safety and Wellness of Patients with Known Diabetes Through Laboratory Medicine and a 5-Stage Multi-Disciplinary Clinical Care Pathway — <i>Zulekha Hospital Dubai</i>	Magdy Allam Mariam Younan Mohamed Abdelhamid	Muhammad Khan Eman Yousef

Fig. 1. 2021 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award winners.

- The project's care initiative must include Laboratory Medicine/Pathology and at least 2 other disciplines.
- Example care team: Laboratory Medicine, Information Technology, and Infectious Disease.
- The project initiative must contain evidence from actual implementation in practice.
- Impact can be assessed quantitatively (preferred) or qualitatively; there must be 2 to 4 quantitative metrics (Key Performance Indicators) that support measurably better healthcare performance resulting from the initiative.
- The metrics must be reflective of a singular clinical care effort.
- There must be at least one measurable Key Performance Indicator that reflects the impact associated with each of the 4 stakeholders:

- Patients, clinicians, health systems/administration, and payors.

Evaluation of the annual submissions for the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards is accomplished through engagement of a panel of over 35 international professionals that serve as judges upon designation from advocating organizations. The judges rate each submission against the award criteria using a methodology that blinds them to the identity of the submitters and/or sites involved. A strength of the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence award is that each

submission is independently examined and scored by at least 7 judges. All judges receive structured professional training on how to rate each element of the program. The peer-review process takes several months and the fact that leaders in the field have objectively evaluated the submissions adds to the prestige and honor of these international awards.

It is true that the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards highlight the value of laboratory medicine and productive collaborations for improving health and patient care. However, the UNIVANTS program does much more by teaching and inspiring change, including powerful

collaborations as well as way of organizing thoughts and initiatives toward identifying meaningful patient outcomes that are measurable, sustainable, and desired. I encourage all laboratorians to take a careful look at the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence program and think about how the processes therein could be organized within their own institutions and healthcare systems. I believe they would find the information beneficial.

Please join me in congratulating all 2021 innovators displayed in [Fig. 1](#) for a job well done. We encourage teams to learn more about these and other best practices at UnivantsHCE.com.

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