

LabMedica®

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Measurable Impact of the Clinical Laboratory to Patients, Clinicians and Health Systems

Statistics that link test results from the Clinical Laboratory to their usefulness in medical decisions have been widely shared by experts and cited in publications for years. Those figures, while impressively connecting 70-90% of all medical decisions to clinical diagnostics, are also limiting in scope in that they do not fully comprehend the emerging value of the Clinical Laboratory as a strategic collaborative asset in transforming healthcare. Stated differently, the value of Clinical Laboratory extends beyond the impact of their test results to medical decisions and can be directly associated with measurable impact to key performance indicators (KPIs) across the entire care continuum. Representative examples of such best practices have been highlighted as part of the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program.

The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program is a prestigious, global award offered annually to integrated clinical care teams who have partnered together across disciplines to leverage data and insights from the Clinical Laboratory to transform the delivery of care. Led by Abbott and offered in partnership with IFCC, AACC, EHMA, Modern Healthcare, HIMSS, NAHQ and IHE, this award has inspired hundreds of care teams to share their successful best practices or begin new ones.

Last month, twelve care teams with leading examples of measurable success to patients, payors, clinicians and health systems were recognized for their innovation and collaboration. It is not surprising that 81% of the submitted care projects for the 2019 awards involved increased clinician confidence. It may be surprising, however, to appreciate that 75% of

the submitted care projects were directly associated with decreasing overall healthcare costs for payors. Similarly, over 50% were directly associated with improving patient safety with many also associated with improvements to resource optimization, patient length of stay, and improved patient experience.

While only 4 KPIs (one for each stakeholder of patients, payors, clinicians and health systems) are required for each application, the average KPI per application was 7 with a median of 9. A standout care project among those honored this year for DISTINC-

TION was Hamilton Health Sciences and Population Health Research Institute. This brilliant and cross-disciplinary team in Ontario, Canada was able to quantify the value of their VISION initiative which touched over 40,000 patients across 28 centers in 14 countries and 5 continents with over 33 unique KPIs including improved patient diagnosis, patient wellness and decreased mortality.

Thus, partnerships and innovation across care teams can have substantial and quantifiable value. There are no better experts in laboratory medicine than those who work within the Clinical Laboratory. When utilized to their maximum value, not just for the transaction exchange of high quality test results, but for their critical role in driving insights and transformation to care processes, the impact is not only significant but often extraordinary.

Learn more about the 12 teams that were recognized in 2019 by visiting the program website at www.UnivantsHCE.com. In addition, applications for the 2020 awards are now being accepted for the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Program.



Photo (From left to right) P.J. Devereaux, MD, PhD, Director, Division of Perioperative Care, McMaster University; Peter Kavsak, PhD, Clinical Biochemist, Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program, and Professor, Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, McMaster University; Matthew McQueen, MB ChB, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Pathology and Molecular Medicine, McMaster University