

Award Categories & Evaluation Criteria



SHM's Awards of Excellence 2026

Nashville, Tennessee | March 29 – April 1, 2026

Note: For all award category submissions, nominees must be SHM members who have demonstrated engagement with the Society of Hospital Medicine (*ex. attended local or regional meeting, member of a Special Interest Group, a Fellow/Senior Fellow, involved in a committee, etc.*)

Excellence in Research

While all of the following may not apply to each candidate, the Awards Committee will use the following criteria as a basis for evaluation:

- Impact and relevance of research to hospital medicine
- Peer-reviewed publications, H-index
- Intra- and extramural funding for research
- National presentations in research area

Excellence in Teaching

Consideration will be given to nominees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching prowess and who have served as role models and mentors to other hospitalists, residents, medical students, or other healthcare professionals.

Individuals from academic and community practice settings are eligible.

While all of the following may not apply to each candidate, the Awards Committee will use the following criteria as a basis for evaluation:

- Career dedication to the discipline of teaching
- Focus on excellence in teaching at the bedside
- Leadership in the advancement of innovative educational techniques
- Outstanding contributions in medical instruction or medical education administration
- Established role model or mentor to students
 - Do not submit learner letters of support for the initial submission process. Learner letters will be requested if nominee is advanced to the 2nd round of reviews.
- Educator and mentor to the healthcare team (Nurses, NPs, PAs etc.)

Leadership for Practice Managers

In addition to the universal eligibility requirements for all categories, please note that for this award:

- Practicing physicians and nurse practitioners/physician assistants are ineligible
- Nominees must have three (3) or more years of direct Hospital Medicine program practice management experience.

While all of the following may not apply to each candidate, the Awards Committee will use the following criteria as a basis for evaluation:

- Excellence in hospital operations/management defined as advancing any of the missions of hospital medicine including (but not limited to) clinical care (safety, quality, efficiency, patient experience, costs), supporting education, supporting research and scholarship, promoting community engagement and advocacy within the practice and/or in the clinical mission, clinician wellness and engagement.
- Innovations or contributions to their hospital, in their hospitalist group or within the field of hospital medicine.

Outstanding Service in Hospital Medicine

While all of the following may not apply to each candidate, the Awards Committee will use the following criteria as a basis for evaluation:

- Leadership in organized hospital medicine, especially within the regional, national, or international community
- Advancing the practice of hospital medicine, especially through the Society of Hospital Medicine.
- Promoting the field of Hospital Medicine, or more specifically SHM, through contributions in public policy and advocacy

Clinical Leadership for Physicians

While all of the following may not apply to each candidate, the Awards Committee will use the following criteria as a basis for evaluation:

- Outstanding contributions to patient care and quality, safety, experience and/or system improvement
- Leadership of clinical care in hospital medicine
- Focused innovation in the field of hospital medicine
- Promotion of clinical knowledge
- May include one or more of the following: excellence in operations, creative collaborations, program development, systems-based improvement, and/or demonstrated outcomes in value-based arrangements.
- Must be a practicing physician

Clinical Leadership for Nurse Practitioners/Physician Assistants

While all of the following may not apply to each candidate, the Awards Committee will use the following criteria as a basis for evaluation:

- Outstanding contributions to patient care, quality, safety, experience and/or systems improvement
- Leadership of clinical care in hospital medicine
- Promotion of clinical knowledge

- May include one or more of the following: excellence in operations, excellence in creative collaborations and/or excellence in program development
- Innovations in the role of the NP/PA or contributions to their hospital, hospitalist group, system, or region
- Must be a practicing NP or PA

Excellence in Humanitarian Services

While all of the following may not apply to each candidate, the Awards Committee will use the following criteria as a basis for evaluation:

- Service to vulnerable populations (locally, nationally or internationally)
- May be a single event or over many years
- Must demonstrate efforts outside of, or above and beyond, the purview of the normal realm of your job function.
- Preference given to improving health systems and/or direct medical care.
- May be a voluntary or compensated position, but services provided are not motivated by financial compensation. (Compensation is not commensurate with services.)

Excellence in the Care of Vulnerable Populations

While all of the following may not apply to each candidate, the Awards Committee will use the following criteria as a basis for evaluation:

Service to patients:

- Development of innovative care programs to advance care of vulnerable patient populations

Service to profession:

- Increasing awareness of issues impacting vulnerable populations
- Development of innovative programs that support enhanced care for vulnerable populations
- Promotion of best practices for recruiting and retaining a vibrant hospital medicine workforce
- Creation of policies, procedures, and practices that embrace both patient and physician voices to enhance shared decision-making
- Engaging in thoughtful advocacy

Service to communities

- Demonstrated leadership in supporting outreach to vulnerable populations in various communities
- Reliable development of patient-centric initiatives in local communities

Education and Mentoring

- Demonstrated commitment and an established record of developing pathways to support training and mentoring of future physicians
- Creation and deployment of curricula and evidence-based interventions to advance health outcomes of vulnerable populations

Scholarship

- A record of scholarship addressing the needs of vulnerable populations (e.g. publications, speakerships, development of educational/training programs)

Note: *Candidates must be members of SHM and have service to the Society of Hospital Medicine. (Ex. Attended a local or regional meeting, on a SIG, a fellow or senior fellow, involved in a committee etc.).*

Excellence in Teamwork

Unlike the awards presented to individual recipients, this award is presented in recognition of exemplary quality improvement initiatives in hospital medicine that engage the **full patient care team**. The award is intended to highlight outstanding team approaches to implementing interventions that improve patient care and safety.

SHM encourages submission of all multidisciplinary team projects but is particularly interested in projects related to the core competencies in hospital medicine and SHM's quality improvement resource rooms. Preference will be given to those team projects that demonstrate excellence in successfully implementing quality improvement interventions.

Recipients of the Excellence in Teamwork in Quality Improvement Award receive recognition at SHM Converge 2026 and complimentary registration for up to 4 team members.

Submissions may be related to any aspect of quality improvement. Each submission will be judged using the following criteria:

- **Broad-Based Participation & Team Approach**
 - Projects should demonstrate involvement of members from various healthcare delivery and support disciplines. The team – not an individual – should be the focus of the project.
 - An active SHM member must be involved in the leadership of the team (chair/co-chair/team leader, etc.).
- **Scope and Magnitude**
 - Projects should address patient safety issues of considerable scope and magnitude, with consideration for the patient population affected and the project's risk reduction potential (i.e., potential impact on the frequency and/or severity of harm).
- **Measurability**
 - The impact of the project should be measurable and sustainable. Measures may be leading or lagging, evidence-based or consensus-based indicators of success, including those related to structure and process, with a bias toward those that demonstrate a change in outcomes.
- **Transferability & Development of Portable Implementation Guidelines or Tools**
 - Projects should lend themselves to being replicated at other institutions, with an emphasis on solutions that are practical, relevant, and cost-effective

Note: List any honors that this project has received already within SHM and outside SHM.

Junior Investigator Award

While all of the following may not apply to each candidate, the Research Committee will use the following criteria as a basis for evaluation:

- Work presented at SHM
- Engagement at SHM
- Publications
- Grants

The winner will present the Junior Investigator Award commendation talk (30 minutes) during SHM Converge.