

Award Categories & Evaluation Criteria

SHM's Awards of Excellence 2027

Las Vegas, Nevada | March 30 – April 2, 2027

Note: For all award category submissions, nominees must be active, dues-paying members of the Society of Hospital Medicine for a minimum of one (1) year prior to the submission deadline.

Nominees should have demonstrated engagement with the Society of Hospital Medicine and its missions.

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 such as influence on clinical practice, healthcare delivery, quality, safety, and patient outcomes
- Peer-reviewed publications, H-index, and other indicators of impact
- Intra- and extramural funding for research
- National presentations in research areas or mentorship and development of the next generation of hospitalist researchers

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 both 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
- Demonstrated commitment to educating hospitalists across all career stages, including the development of hospital medicine-specific curricula, measurable impact on learner outcomes, and contributions to continuing professional development
- 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 may be requested if nominee is advanced to the 2nd round of reviews.

- Educator and mentor to the healthcare team (Nurses, NPs, PAs etc.)

Excellence as a Partner in Hospital Medicine

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 experience supporting Hospital Medicine programs in a non-clinical role.

Excellence in the practice of hospital medicine requires contributions from every member of the healthcare team. Practice managers, nursing colleagues, therapists, environmental services colleagues, patient advocates, and many others work collaboratively to provide safe, timely, efficient, respectful, and compassionate care while advancing education, research, community engagement, and clinician wellness. This award recognizes individuals who lead or partner with Hospital Medicine programs to advance these missions through exceptional non-clinical contributions and support.

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

- Exceptional partnership and collaboration in support of Hospital Medicine programs, clinicians, patients, and healthcare teams.
- Sustained contributions that strengthen the infrastructure, function, and success of Hospital Medicine through administrative, operational, strategic, or programmatic support.
- Demonstrated commitment to advancing the goals and mission of Hospital Medicine within their institution, hospitalist group, or healthcare system.
- Meaningful contributions that improve the effectiveness, coordination, engagement, or sustainability of Hospital Medicine programs and teams.
- Innovations or contributions that support the advancement of Hospital Medicine at the local, institutional, or systems level.

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:

- Contributions to promote, support, and advance the field of hospital medicine
- Efforts must extend beyond a single institution to the regional, national, or international community
- Leadership in these efforts are in the realm of public policy, advocacy or other ways to promote and strengthen hospital medicine as a field – not in clinical operations
- Advancing the practice of hospital medicine, especially through the Society of Hospital Medicine

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, equity, inclusivity, experience and/or system improvement
- Leadership of clinical care in hospital medicine, including fostering an inclusive, supportive, and high-functioning clinical culture

- Focused innovation in the field of hospital medicine
- Promotion of clinical knowledge and demonstrated commitment to mentoring and developing hospitalists across career stages, including future leaders within hospital medicine
- 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 hospitalist
- Regional or national contributions to hospital medicine leadership, including dissemination of best practices

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 hospitalist

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

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 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.

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 patient safety and/or 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 or quality 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.