



# Abarca Prize

“Vocation must be able to  
act *freely* if it is to be a  
means of *good healing*.”

DOCTOR JUAN ABARCA CAMPAL

Abarca  
Prize



*Ad* Profectum **M**edicinae

*Abarca Prize,*  
Doctor Juan Abarca  
International Award  
for Medical Sciences

“This prize recognises people of science who embody the humanistic and professional values that **Dr Juan Abarca Campal** has upheld throughout his personal life and professional career: life values based on absolute dedication to the health and well-being of patients; fully committed to his ideals, principles and the idea that nothing is impossible, with integrity and as a clear example of why you should always look a patient in the eye”.

**ABARCA PRIZE** has one clear purpose: to recognise the impact of medical-scientific advances and innovations, highlighting their importance for society, as well as to serve as a benchmark, not only of the research communication of Grupo HM Hospitales, but also that of the Abarca Cidón family itself.

With this goal in mind, the prize is awarded to a scientist of international renown who throughout their scientific or medical career has made a transcendental contribution to the protection, improvement or rehabilitation of individuals' and populations' health thanks to a biomedical discovery of worldwide relevance.

Therefore, the prize is intended for an action that has served to generate new knowledge with global impact, especially if it has been able to change country health systems, the risk factors for preventable diseases, or the social determinants or the environmental impacts that can lead to disease. And all this must have been achieved without losing sight of the scientist's role as a scientific and clinical inspiration for current and future fellow researchers. Documentary evidence that supports the work done must also exist.

The winner of the prize will be awarded **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND EUROS (€100,000)** and a certificate. Full information on the prize, as well as the application form, is available on the website web [www.abarcaprize.com](http://www.abarcaprize.com)

The inspiration for **ABARCA PRIZE** comes from **Doctor Juan Abarca Campal** himself. He has dedicated his life to furthering the lives and health of people, and these human values pervade both this initiative and the organisation which he still presides over in an honorary capacity.

Dr Abarca Campal first studied **medicine and surgery at the University of Salamanca where he gained a first**. Years later, he finished and read **his doctoral thesis, gaining a Cum Laude**, on Dr Argumosa, whose life Dr Abarca Campal has always considered an example of professionalism.

As a distinguished surgeon and Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Corps, Dr Abarca Campal earned personal and professional recommendations in military, civil and social circles in the Spain of the 1970s and 1980s. In 1985, Dr Abarca Campal decided to pursue a medical career, but so as not to give up his military career entirely, he asked simply for a leave of absence, rather than going into the Reserve. Dr Abarca Campal struggled to say “no” to the military world. He had been so happy there and had made so many friends.

Late 80s, **Dr Abarca Campal together with his wife Dr Carmen Cidón Tamargo** developed the concept of a private healthcare system which would allow Spain to move away from the charitable model, **HM Hospitales**, which became a benchmark for companies that wanted to offer complete healthcare solutions which put the patient at the centre of the concept and allowed doctors the freedom to take decisions, investigate, and pursue teaching responsibilities.

Dr Abarca Campal has been given dozens of awards by the media, professional associations, and companies in the health and insurance sector. The most noteworthy of these, without a doubt, is the “**Cruz Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice**” granted by Pope John Paul II in 2005. Other significant commendations include the Seneca award from the Association of Health Journalists and the **Great Cross of Madrid Health** which was awarded by the Community of Madrid in recognition of the doctor’s extraordinary contribution to the medical sector in the Spanish capital over 30 years. It is also important to highlight that Dr Abarca Campal was recognized with the **Grand Cross of Military Merit**, an award which he was given for saving the life of a soldier who had been seriously wounded in the thorax by the blades of a helicopter.

“Concern”, “audacity”, “tenacity”, and an unwavering “faith” marked the character and journey of the doctor as he worked as a surgeon in the following years. He was fulfilling his dreams. In recognition of the importance of freedom, the doctor developed a slogan with the words: “**Medicine set free NO. Freedom of medicine YES**”. This slogan was a reflective exercise which allowed the doctor to sum up his vitality and professional spirit.

Dr Abarca Campal was Hippocratic in how he understood the medical profession. His healthcare philosophy is well summarised in the “**Decalogue of a Hospital**”. The commandments remain vital to HM Hospitales to this day. The rules have allowed the company to become one of the most important operators in the Spanish healthcare system, in which research and teaching have allowed for these pillars to be introduced as essential parts in Grupo HM Hospitales’ operation.

**ABARCA PRIZE** is being organized through Fundación de Investigación HM Hospitales, a non-profit organization, established in 2003 with the fundamental objective of leading a bio sanitary R&D, as well as the Grupo HM Hospitales' social projects.

The application process and selection of candidates to win **ABARCA PRIZE** is implemented in **two stages**. In the first one, nominations should be submitted by sending a **letter of intent** (using the standard form at [www.abarcaprize.com](http://www.abarcaprize.com)) **by 2 pm (CET) on 31 May 2021**.

Nominations must be submitted by a third party, i.e. by persons or entities other than the nominee. This includes companies, foundations, other researchers of recognised prestige, universities, hospitals, professional associations, scientific societies, royal academies, etc. Submissions may be made in Spanish or English.

Once the deadline for submissions has passed, Fundación de Investigación HM Hospitales will assess whether they meet the prize's conditions as well as the suitability of those nominated. A **shortlist of up to five nominees** will be drawn up and submitted to the jury.

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# Election of the Winner

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**In a second stage**, the jury members will evaluate the documentation submitted according to select criteria, and their final proposal will be accompanied by a report justifying the selection (list of merits, etc.).

**The jury will comprise a variety of professional profiles** (scientific, clinical and other fields) and nationalities. The winner will be announced on 25 October 2021 and the recipient must be present at the prize-giving ceremony, to be held at the end of October in Madrid, Spain.

Fundación de Investigación HM Hospitales is a non-profit organization, established in 2003 with the fundamental objective of leading a bio sanitary R&D, within the framework of translational research, that directly benefits the patient and the general society, both in the treatment of diseases and in the care of health, with the aim of making Personalized Medicine a reality.

It also aims to achieve excellence in health care, with a clear social, educational and promotion commitment to translational research, so that scientific advances, in technology and research, can be applied quickly and directly to patients.

Since its creation it promotes, funds and leads research projects in which doctors and researchers (basic and clinical) try to solve day-to-day care problems, with direct benefit to patients, improving a medicine based on personalized scientific evidence.

Also, with a clear social commitment, in addition to carrying out various social-health projects, it promotes scientific dissemination and health education, organizing scientific forums and editing informative and educational monographs.

Website: [www.abarcaprize.com](http://www.abarcaprize.com)

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