



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, the Doctor Juan Abarca International Award for Medical Sciences, aims to be the maximum expression of the research communication of both Grupo HM Hospitales and the Abarca Cidón family itself. The recognition awarded by the prize is **twofold. Not only does it honour the winning researcher for his work, but also the figure of Dr Juan Abarca Campal himself**, whose personal and professional values pervade the organization that he continues to preside over in an honorary capacity and which serve as the prize's inspiration.

This prize seeks to recognise the efforts of people of science that **embody the human and professional values** that Dr Juan Abarca Campal has defended throughout his personal life and professional career: life values dedicated to the health and well-being of his **patients**, based on an unfailing **commitment** to his ideals and to his belief that nothing is impossible, to working with integrity and to showing **why you should always look a patient in the eye.**

Abarca Prize

AD PROPECTUM MEDICINAE

ABARCA PRIZE, the Doctor Juan Abarca International Award for Medical Sciences, was created in 2021 as a way of **recognising the impact of medical-scientific advances and innovations, highlighting their importance for societies the world over**. The prize is awarded to a person from the field of science and research at a global level, whose work has made a significant contribution to improving the health of individuals and populations.

The **inspiration for the prize comes from the figure of renowned Spanish physician Dr Juan Abarca Campal**, who has dedicated his life to furthering medical services and people's health.

The purpose of the **ABARCA PRIZE** is therefore to award scientists and researchers who embody **the human and professional values** that Dr Juan Abarca has defended throughout his personal and professional life. **Concern for his patients and a firm belief in the doctor's need to work freely, in the true power of the profession and in transparency as a priority for excellence** are some of the basic principles that Dr Juan Abarca has abided by in the exercise of his profession.

In short, the ultimate goal of **ABARCA PRIZE** is to recognise in other elite professionals from Spain and all over the world the same human and professional values and drive to make a global impact that Dr Juan Abarca has always represented, and continues to represent.

Doctor Juan Abarca, the inspiration

The inspiration for **ABARCA PRIZE** comes from **Doctor Juan Abarca Campal**, a surgeon and businessman who has dedicated his life to furthering people's health. This initiative aimed at the scientific and research community has been imbued with the same human values the physician has always lived by.

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. **The disruptive concept of medicine, HM Hospitales**, pioneered by Dr Abarca Campal and Dr Carmen Cidón Tamargo 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.

Recognition of research that spans the globe



Dr Abarca has always held fast to the fundamental premise of his work, namely to invest continuously in research and to defend health professionals' right to exercise the profession freely, without outside pressures and giving maximum priority to caring for people's health. Medical-scientific advances in the last fifteen years have brought about a notable improvement in people's quality of life, making it possible to overcome challenges that seemed insurmountable through translational and personalised medicine.

Built upon these principles, the **ABARCA PRIZE** recognises **the role of research as a generator of talent worldwide and a tool capable of changing people's quality of life and the progression of their health for the better.**

The winner will receive one hundred thousand euros (€100,000) and a certificate.

The prize is organised by the Fundación de Investigación HM Hospitales, a non-profit entity established in 2003 to promote and manage the development of biomedical R&D&I as well as the solidarity work of Grupo HM Hospitales.

The process to choose the first winner of ABARCA PRIZE

The ABARCA PRIZE will be awarded to a person from the field of research and science anywhere in the world whose work has contributed in a transcendental way to improving individuals' and populations' health.

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**.

The process to submit and select nominees involves **two stages**.

The first, the period for receipt of nominations, will take place **between 1 April and 31 May** of this year. Those wishing to nominate someone will have to send a **letter of intent** using the form available at www.abarcaprize.com. In this letter of intent, the entities or persons submitting nominations must give reasons why the person nominated qualifies, keeping in mind the values the prize seeks to recognise.

Once all the submissions have been received, on 1 June the Fundación de Investigación HM Hospitales will begin to assess whether they meet the prize requirements as well as the suitability of those nominated. A **shortlist of up to five nominees will be drawn up and submitted to the jury**.

The entities or persons responsible for nominating those shortlisted for the prize will be asked to send any documentation they consider relevant for evaluation by the jury before 30 September 2021.

In the second stage, the jury members will evaluate the documentation submitted according to select criteria, after which they will meet via teleconference to discuss the winner. This meeting will take place before **12 October**, and their final proposal will be accompanied by a report **justifying the selection (list of merits, etc.)**.

The winner will be announced on 25 October and will be awarded the prize in Madrid during that same week.

An external, independent jury of international prestige

The members of the jury to award the **ABARCA PRIZE** will be **independent and external to the organisation**. They will be appointed by the Fundación de Investigación HM Hospitales based on both their accredited academic and professional prestige and the international impact of their scientific contributions. They will also exemplify the Abarca Prize's values.

The jury will **comprise a variety of professional profiles** (scientific, clinical and other fields) and nationalities, and its members will ensure that the recipient of the prize has made a significant scientific contribution to the improvement of people's health worldwide.

About ABARCA PRIZE

The **ABARCA PRIZE**, the Doctor Juan Abarca International Award for Medical Sciences, has been created as a way of recognising the impact of medical-scientific advances and innovations, highlighting their importance for societies the world over. The prize will be awarded to a person from the field of research and science anywhere in the world whose work has contributed in a transcendental way to improving individuals' and populations' health.

The **ABARCA PRIZE** takes its inspiration from a fundamental, tireless commitment to furthering people's health and well-being, values that have defined the work of Doctor Juan Abarca Campal throughout his professional career.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Abarca Prize Press Office

press@abarcaprize.com
www.abarcaprize.com

Twitter: [@AbarcaPrize](https://twitter.com/AbarcaPrize)
Linkedin: [Abarca Prize](https://www.linkedin.com/company/abarca-prize)