

6TH EDITION – DOCTOR JUAN ABARCA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR MEDICAL SCIENCE

RULES OF THE 2026 CALL

The HM Hospitales Research Foundation is calling for entries for the DOCTOR JUAN ABARCA INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR MEDICAL SCIENCE with the goal of acknowledging the work of a scientist of international standing who has achieved a biomedical finding of global significance, whose career has contributed decisively to improving people's health, and who embodies the human and professional values that Dr Abarca Campal has advocated throughout his personal life and professional career: lifelong dedication to patient health and care.

1. Nature of the award

The Award will acknowledge the impact of the awardee's scientific or clinical activity on protecting, improving or restoring the health of people and communities. Thus, the award-winning candidate must be supported by documentary evidence of how their activity has had a real, direct, effective impact on people's health, sickness and well-being. The award-winning activity is expected to have contributed to generating new knowledge of global significance, to have been able to bring about changes in countries' healthcare systems, in the risk factors for preventable diseases, or in the social determinants or environmental impacts as a primary cause of disease generation, and to have provided a source of scientific and clinical inspiration for other people. Furthermore, the candidate must have an unblemished ethical record.

As this is an international Award, candidates may be natural persons from anywhere in the world.

2. Endowment

The Award is endowed with a sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND EUROS (100,000 euros) and an accrediting diploma.

3. Period for nomination of candidates

The period for nominating candidates will be open from 16 February 2026 until 2.00 pm (CET) on 29 May 2026.

Nominations may be submitted in Spanish or English.

The Award will be based on work or activities carried out prior to this call.

Nominations will be made through people or organisations other than the candidate. These may be companies, foundations, researchers of recognised standing, universities, hospitals, professional associations, scientific societies, royal academies, etc.

The following may not take part in the call:

- Members of the HM Hospitales Research Foundation Board of Trustees.
- Staff working for companies belonging to the HM Hospitales Group
- Jury members
- Posthumous candidates
- Those who submit nominations on their own behalf

Phase One: This consists of sending a letter of intent, using the standard template available at www.abarcaprize.com, before 2.00 pm (CET) on 29 May 2026. In this letter of intent, the nominating organisations or individuals must explain the reasons why the candidate meets the requirements for receiving the Award, in line with the Award's values.

The HM Hospitales Research Foundation will determine fulfilment of the requirements, in order that a Advisory Council, made up of impartial members, may assess the candidates' suitability. This council will determine the final selection submitted to the Jury, which will include a maximum of 5 proposals.

The organisations or individuals that have nominated these 5 proposals will be invited to send all the documentation they consider relevant for assessment by the Jury; the period for sending the documentation will end at 2.00 pm (CET) on 26 June 2026.

The documentation must be sent to: secretariat@abarcaprize.com

Phase Two: The Jury will evaluate the documentation in accordance with its best criteria. Finally, in a videoconference held with all of the Jury's members, before 31 July 2026, a discussion will take place which will conclude with a proposal of the award winner, accompanied by a reasoned report of the merits that support this choice.

The winner of the Award will be announced in the first week of October 2026.

The decision will be notified to the award winner, who must expressly accept it and sign an undertaking to be available for the different events established by the Award organisers.

In order to receive the Award, the winner must be present at the award ceremony and take part in the events that have been organised, without prejudice to the mobility restrictions that may be imposed at the time by the health authorities.

4. Jury

The Award will be decided by a Jury composed of members appointed annually by the Foundation from among experts of accredited academic and professional repute who are acknowledged internationally for their contribution to science and who, in one way or another, represent and epitomise the values of the Award.

A professionally diverse Jury (scientists, clinicians and from other fields of professional activity) guarantees that the award winner has made a scientifically significant contribution to improving people's health.

A nationally diverse Jury guarantees that the Award is given for a truly global contribution.

The Jury members' vote cannot be delegated.

The Jury's deliberations will be secret.

The Jury's decision is final.

The Jury members will be announced before June 2026.

5. Award-giving ceremony

The Award will be given at a ceremony specifically organised for this purpose, which will be held in Madrid in October 2026.