



MaHIMA Awards Categories & Criteria

The Distinguished Member Award

MaHIMA's highest award of honor and recognizes a member for their long, exceptional history of contributions to MaHIMA. It is awarded to an outstanding individual whose record of contributions to MaHIMA over many years is truly exceptional. (Presented at Annual Meeting)

Qualifications: Qualified individuals are HIM professionals who have made significant contributions to MaHIMA through dedicated volunteer service, innovative professional practice, education, research, or publishing. Some qualifications are listed below.

Guidelines: Nomination criteria for this award may include the following:

- Active member of MaHIMA for a minimum of ten years
- Volunteer service as an officer, director, committee or council chair or member, task force chair or member, special project director, CoP Facilitator, or representative of the HIM field at government hearings for AHIMA.
- Providing inspiration, guidance, mentoring and opportunities for emerging leaders to participate in MaHIMA's volunteer structure and to build meaningful leadership experiences.
- Significant support of key MaHIMA initiatives.



The Professional Achievement Award

Awarded in memory of Dorothy (Dot) Grandolfi-Wagg. The award honors those whose long-term and enthusiastic support of MaHiMA and the HIM profession has advanced MaHiMA's capacity to achieve its mission and/or advanced HIM practice. (Presented at Dot Wagg Memorial Seminar in November).

Qualifications: Qualified nominees are individuals who have worked tirelessly to support the HIM profession by advancing AHIMA's leadership position and/or who have developed or refined practice theory, demonstrated leadership, or introduced innovation and creativity to current practice. These individuals go above and beyond in their quest to make the HIM profession thrive.

Guidelines: Nomination criteria for this award include the following:

- Significant original research or authorship, editing, or service on editorial board for journals, books, monographs, and other publications that advance the HIM profession.
- Advancing professional practice through development of new theory; active dissemination of knowledge about cutting-edge practice innovations; or leadership in a specialty
- Regular presenter at HIM conferences and other educational events; respected instructor in academic HIM programs; or developer of groundbreaking teaching strategies.
- Advancing legislative initiatives that promote the interests of the HIM profession.
- Advocacy of patient rights and confidentiality; educating the public regarding health information; or support and promotion of professional practice standards.
- Positioning the HIM profession as a leadership force in the healthcare industry.
- Promotion of quality information through quality data.
- Introduction of creative practice innovations through advances in technology, development of more effective quality management measures, or new methods of promoting employee motivation and job satisfaction.
- Demonstrated leadership in HIM education.
- Employing HIM practice in alternate careers not limited to the healthcare industry.



The Outstanding New Professional Award

Awarded in memory of Deborah Heinbuck and recognizes and encourages the best of the fresh new talent in health information administration or health information technology. It honors a promising new professional who embodies great hope as we look to the future of the HIM profession. (Presented at Annual Meeting).

Qualifications: Qualified individuals are HIM professionals who have received an AHIMA-recognized credential within the last seven years. Nominees must demonstrate significant potential for future leadership, innovation, creativity, and administrative capacity.

Guidelines: Nomination criteria for this award include the following:

- Willingness to change tradition, take risks, and think critically and to lead others in these processes.
- Exceptional problem-solving ability with the capacity to envision the “big picture” in health information management and to make decisions accordingly.
- Demonstrates excellence in the management of personnel, finances, or information systems.
- Demonstrates commitment to the HIM profession through active participation in MaHiMA activities.



The HIM Innovation Award (*previously called HIM Collaboration Award*):

Award Description: Innovation is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as the introduction of something new. Wikipedia expands on that, defining innovation as a new way of doing something. It may refer to incremental, radical, and revolutionary changes in thinking, products, processes, or organizations. The HIM Innovation Award recognizes outstanding efforts made by a department or team (two or more individuals) in meeting the challenges of the ever changing HIM environment through a new process or technique.

A department or team can be nominated for a project that falls into one or more of the following three categories:

- Best practice (defined as processes and activities that have been shown in practice to be the most effective or practical techniques gained from experience that organizations may use to improve internal processes)
- Financial Impact (defined as activities that create a positive impact on an institution's bottom line)
- Collaboration (defined as working jointly within or across departments or with external organizations towards a common goal)

Examples of award-worthy efforts by category include:

Best practice

- Staff education and professional development including mentoring resulting in a higher quality of work product or improving process efficiencies
- Introduction of creative practice innovations through advances in technology, development of more effective quality management measures or new methods of promoting employee motivation and job satisfaction

Financial impact

- Successful systems improvement, upgrade or process change that resulted in demonstrable increase in revenue, savings in expenses, staff time or other types of cost reductions



Collaboration

- Team effort in implementation of new initiatives or systems: e.g., EHR, Physician order entry, web-based transcription, voice recognition, privacy and confidentiality
- Team effort in a department or facility reorganization, merger or relocation project

Guidelines: Nominees must submit the following:

- Indicate which category the innovation applies to
- Describe the challenge being addressed and the goal of the project
- Describe the steps taken, provide illustrative materials as appropriate
- Describe the outcomes. Be as specific as possible as to how you feel the outcome met the challenges and goals of the project.
- Provide a complete list of department or team members to be recognized

Eligibility:

At least one member of the team must be an MaHiMA member. Submissions should be for projects at least substantially completed within the last 24 months.

Recognition:

Presentations of award certificates will be performed at the facility site during AHIMA's Health Information and Technology Week in November

Winners will be announced at the Fall Meeting and showcased in e-Channel.

Due Date:

Submissions are due by August 1.



The Legislator of the Year Award

Award Description:

The Legislator of the Year Award is presented to an individual at the legislative level who has demonstrated the following:

Qualified nominees are individuals who have demonstrated the following award worthy efforts:

- Legislator representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at either the state or federal level.
- Actively participate in the legislative process in an effort to initiate change or to create new regulatory legislation to advance the HIM profession
- Create awareness of the HIM profession at the local, state, and/or federal levels
- Willingness to educate and present legislative and regulatory topics at educational events to raise awareness among the HIM profession
- Consistent leadership on legislative initiatives that advance and support MaHIMA and the HIM profession.
- Active involvement on committees that advance and support the HIM profession.
- Contributes to an environment that positions the HIM profession in a leadership role at the legislative level
- Advocate for HIM related issues to government officials and/or committees

Guidelines: Nominations must include the following:

- Describe in detail the role and involvement of the individual(s). Please include an outline of the specific task, goals, challenges, names of legislative parties involved in the process, series of events, outcomes, etc.

Eligible Candidates:

- Legislator representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at either the state or federal level
- If a previous recipient of the Legislator of the Year Award, eligible every 3 years

Submission Due Date:

- Two (2) months prior to the Annual Dot Wagg Memorial Seminar

Recognition:

- Award will be presented at the Annual Dot Wagg Memorial Seminar and showcased in MaHIMA e-Channel.



Retiree Recognition

Recognizes members who will be retiring from the profession during the association year. (Presented at Annual Meeting).

Qualifications: Members who have retired from the HIM profession within the past 3 years will be recognized at the Annual Meeting. Retiree must be retired by April 1st to be eligible. Members are only eligible once for this recognition.

Student Achievement Awards

Recognizes students for their academic achievements, leadership, high ethical and moral values. (Presented at Annual Meeting)

Qualifications: Students from an accredited Health Information Technology (HIT) program are eligible. Determined by the Program Directors at each of the accredited HIT schools in Massachusetts.

Guidelines: Determined by the Program Directors at each of the accredited HIT schools in Massachusetts.

HIM Advocacy Award

Award Description:

The HIM Advocacy Award recognizes the exceptional efforts by an individual(s) that have contributed to the advancement of the HIM profession by means of the legislative and regulatory process at the local, state, and/or federal levels.

Qualified nominees are individuals who have demonstrated the following award worthy efforts:

- Promote legislative and regulatory initiatives that support the advancement of the HIM profession
- Actively participate in the legislative process in an effort to initiate change or to create new regulatory legislation to advance the HIM profession
- Create awareness of the HIM profession at the local, state, and/or federal levels
- Willingness to educate and present legislative and regulatory topics at educational events to raise awareness among the HIM profession
- Demonstrates and motivates leadership characteristics through advocacy at the local, state, and/or federal levels
- Promote and support the professional standards and mission of MaHIMA at the local, state, and/or federal levels
- Contributes to an environment that positions the HIM profession in a leadership role at the legislative level
- Involvement on MaHIMA or related committees
- Provide testimony or testimony-support before legislative committees and/or regulatory agencies
- Advocate for HIM related issues to government officials and/or committees

Guidelines: Nominations must include the following:

- Describe in detail the role and involvement of the individual(s). Please include an outline of the specific task, goals, challenges, names of legislative parties involved in the process, series of events, outcomes, etc.

Eligible Candidates:

- MaHIMA and Non-MaHIMA members
- If a previous recipient of the HIM Advocacy Award, eligible every 3 years

Submission Due Date:

- Two (2) months prior to the Annual Dot Wagg Memorial Seminar

Recognition:

- Award will be presented at the Annual Dot Wagg Memorial Seminar and showcased in MaHIMA e-Channel.



Champion Award

Award Description: The MaHiMA Champion Award honors those whose long-term and enthusiastic support of MaHiMA and the HIM profession has advanced MaHiMA's capacity to achieve its mission and/or advanced HIM practice.

Qualifications: Qualified nominees are individuals, groups, or corporations who have worked tirelessly to support the HIM profession by advancing MaHiMA's mission. These are best characterized as individuals or organizations that go above and beyond in their quest to make the HIM profession thrive, either locally in the state of Massachusetts or on the national level.

Guidelines: Nomination criteria for this award include the following:

- Positioning the HIM profession as a leadership force in the healthcare industry regarding the use, protection, and interpretation of health information and data.
- Introduction of creative practice innovations through advances in technology, development of more effective quality management measures, or new methods of promoting employee motivation and job satisfaction.
- Demonstrated leadership in HIM education as a speaker, teacher, or facilitator.
- Providing inspiration, guidance, and opportunities for emerging leaders to participate in MaHiMA's volunteer structure and to build meaningful leadership experiences.
- Actively support MaHiMA's mission "behind-the-scenes" by offering critical logistical support and assistance in MaHiMA's educational programs.
- Developing new methods of more open and just-in-time communication between MaHiMA leadership and membership to encourage environmental scanning, transparency, and active engagement.

Eligibility: both MaHiMA members and non-members may qualify. Individuals may receive this award more than once but not within 5 years of the previous award.

Recognition: at the MaHiMA Winter meeting the recipient(s) will receive:

- Meeting registration (including lunch)
- Recognition in e-Channel
- Framed certificate of award

Submission Due Date: December 1st

Outreach Award

Award Description:

The MaHIMA Outreach Award recognizes individuals or groups who have provided a public face for the HIM profession.

Qualifications:

Any significant effort of outreach by an MaHIMA member or members within the previous three years would be eligible for this award. The nominee will have provided perspective or information on HIM-related issues to any non-HIM audience.

- The perspective or information could be provided verbally or in writing; in person or via remote communication; utilizing words, symbols, graphs or diagrams; and other methods.
- HIM-related issues include medical identity theft, HIPAA, personal health records, privacy/confidentiality, and other HIM-related issues
- Non-HIM audiences would include the public; other professionals and professional associations; and hospitals, insurers and other components of the healthcare industry
- Non-HIM audience may be an individual or a group.

Examples of award-worthy efforts include:

- Presentation or presentation-support on HIM topics
- Development of presentation materials, educational materials, tool-kits, and other materials.
- Outreach to healthcare organizations and networks, insurers, regulatory agencies, patient groups, and other
- Outreach at meetings of allied professional groups

Eligibility:

Recipients of this award must be members of MaHIMA. The award-worthy effort must have occurred and been largely completed within 24 months of the award submission date. Recipients may have received this award previously however the subsequent award worthy effort must differ markedly from the earlier award winning effort.

Recognition:

The MaHIMA Outreach Award will be presented at the winter meeting of MaHIMA. Winners will receive winter meeting registration, a framed certificate of achievement and will be showcased in an issue of MaHIMA's e-Channel.



Submission Guidelines:

To nominate yourself or someone else, please submit the following:

- Describe the audience and the occasion
- Describe the message provided and the role played
- Document any results, if discernable, of the outreach

Submissions are due (two months prior to date of winter meeting).

(Presented at Winter Meeting)

If you have any questions regarding this announcement, please contact: Joan Usher, RHIA, Chairman, MaHIMA Awards Committee at jlhome@comcast.net or 781-829-9632