

# Joseph A. Fortuna Award Criteria

## Purpose

The Joseph A. Fortuna Award recognizes significant and lasting contributions to improving healthcare quality made by an individual. This honor reflects the Healthcare Division's purpose, "Making healthcare better."

## Area of Achievement

Recipients of the Joseph A. Fortuna Award will have led or fostered organizational transformation in at least one of the following areas:

- Improving and/or developing innovative solutions that enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of global human healthcare processes/systems
- Increasing access and efficacy of healthcare for underserved populations
- Supporting the integration of quality professionals from other industries into healthcare organizations
- Promoting workplace health and the occupational medicine profession

Evidence of recipients' contributions should involve specific examples of research findings, development of breakthrough approaches, or implementation of significant, large-scale improvements.

## Eligibility Requirements/Restrictions

The following requirements and/or restrictions apply to recipients of the Joseph A. Fortuna Award:

- Recipients are not required to be members of ASQ or the Healthcare Division.
- Recipients should have been associated with a healthcare-related organization at the time the contributions used to substantiate their nomination occurred. Table 1 provides a list of typical organizations that meet this requirement, but it is not exhaustive.
- Recipients may have worked at any level or held any job title within an organization, including contractors or consultants, at the time the contributions used to substantiate their nomination occurred.
- Recipients may be recognized only one time regardless of new or continuing contributions.

- Current Healthcare Division officers and committee chairs are not eligible to receive this recognition.
- If no qualified candidate is nominated in an annual cycle of the award process, the Joseph A. Fortuna Award will not be given.

## Timing

Nominations for the Joseph A. Fortuna Award must be received on or before February 15 of the year recognition will be made.

The Joseph A. Fortuna Award will be presented annually at the Healthcare Division member event conducted during the ASQ World Conference on Quality and Improvement. If the recipient is unable to attend this event, the award will be sent to him/her.

## Nomination Process

- Nominations for the Joseph A. Fortuna Award will be accepted from division and non-division members. Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- Instructions for submitting nominations will be posted in a non-restricted area of the Healthcare Division website.
- Nominations will be submitted by e-mail to the Healthcare Division Joseph A. Fortuna Award Team Chair between January 1 and February 15.
  - Submissions for this award should be sent to Gregory Gurican at [graygur814@comcast.net](mailto:graygur814@comcast.net).
  - Nominations received outside of the designated period will be returned to the submitter by the Joseph A. Fortuna Award Team with an explanation of why they were not included in that year's evaluation process.
- A standardized nomination form is available at [https://asq.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6m3QVOVEXBhQO1f](https://asq.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6m3QVOVEXBhQO1f).
  - Inclusion of this form is required before the Joseph A. Fortuna Award Team evaluates the nominee.
  - If submissions are received between January 1 and February 1 and do not have the standardized nomination form, the Joseph A. Fortuna Award Team will notify the submitter by e-mail that the nomination information needs to be resubmitted with the standardized nomination form included.
  - If submissions are received after February 1 and do not have the standardized nomination form, the Joseph A. Fortuna Award Team will return them to the submitter with an explanation of why they were not included in that year's evaluation process.

- The following information/documentation will be required to support the nomination and will constitute the basis for the evaluation elements:
  - *Area of Achievement*—Identification of the one area of achievement that best represents the nominee's contributions
  - *Nominee Accomplishment*—A description (50 words) or less that describes the nominee's accomplishment in this area of achievement and that can be used on the commemorative certificate and in announcements of the award
  - *Resume*—A detailed resume or curriculum vitae (not a biography)
  - *Project Record*—A list of major projects that are related to the identified area of achievement and that represent work accomplished within the past 10 years
  - *Publications/Courses/Presentations Record*—A list of major publications, courses developed and/or taught, and presentations that are related to the identified area of achievement and that represent work accomplished within in the past 10 years
  - *Endorsements*—At least three brief letters of endorsement from people directly familiar with the nominee's accomplishments in the area of achievement (these should be written on letterhead stationary and should include the endorser's complete name, organization, title, telephone number, and e-mail address)

### **Selection Process**

- The Joseph A. Fortuna Award Team will review the nomination submissions and use a standardized scoring process to evaluate each nominee.
- Only information specifically included in the nomination submission will be considered during the scoring process. Personal knowledge or other resources will not be used to supplement the nomination submission.
- The Joseph A. Fortuna Award Team Chair will notify the Division Management Committee on the results of the evaluation process.

### **Award and Recognition Process**

- The recipient of the Joseph A. Fortuna Award will receive a specially designed, engraved memento and a certificate that briefly describes the recipient's accomplishments, as reported in the nomination submission.
- The recipient of the Joseph A. Fortuna Award may be asked to make a short presentation at the member event based on the agenda, time constraints, and discretion of the Healthcare Division Chair.

- Complimentary registration for the World Conference on Quality and Improvement on the day of the division member event also will be provided along with travel reimbursement for two days.
- Information on the recipient, including his/her achievements in the identified area and brief biographical information, will be posted on the division website by June 15 by the Joseph A. Fortuna Award Team Chair.

**Table 1: Healthcare-Related Organizations**

Type of Organization	Examples
Medical Services Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthcare providers/clinics</li> <li>• Hospitals</li> <li>• Outpatient facilities, including ambulatory surgical centers, wound clinics, physical therapy facilities, laboratories, and imaging centers</li> <li>• Elder-care facilities</li> <li>• Long-term care/skilled-nursing facilities</li> <li>• Pharmacies</li> <li>• Military medicine</li> <li>• Veterans Affairs healthcare organizations</li> <li>• Public health agencies</li> <li>• Dental providers/clinics</li> </ul>
Medical Manufacturing Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical device manufacturers</li> <li>• Pharmaceutical manufacturers</li> <li>• Dental supply manufacturers</li> </ul>
Mental Health Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health providers/clinics/ hospitals, including counselors, phycologists, and psychiatrists</li> <li>• Social work agencies</li> </ul>
Healthcare Administrative Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governmental regulatory agencies</li> <li>• Accreditation/certification organizations</li> </ul>
Healthcare Research Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colleges/universities</li> <li>• Foundations</li> <li>• Internal research departments of healthcare-related organizations</li> </ul>
Not-for-Profit Healthcare-Related Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations associated with research sponsorship related to specific healthcare issues or populations</li> <li>• Organizations associated with dissemination of health services</li> </ul>

## **Biography: Dr. Joseph A. Fortuna**

Dr. Joseph A. Fortuna was a pioneer in the field of emergency medicine, staunch advocate for healthcare in underserved populations, and an authority on the application of process management and quality control in medicine.

Advocacy became a way of life for Fortuna as an undergraduate at Georgetown University, where he was an active participant in student organizations as well as in national politics, working first for Mrs. Muriel Humphrey, wife of U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey, then in the 1968 presidential campaign as a volunteer.

After graduation from Georgetown's School of Medicine, Fortuna interned at University of Minnesota Hospitals in Minneapolis, where he organized a successful challenge to the harsh working conditions of medical interns and residents and obtained concessions on their behalf. He was encouraged by Humphrey to pursue public service, and when his internship was completed, he became first a grant and contract officer at the National Center for Health Services Research and then a legislative assistant in the Health Services and Mental Health Administration of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), where he helped draft the Emergency Medical Services Development Act of 1972.

Fortuna went on to join the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Officer Corps, and he became Assistant Director for Emergency Health Services (an emerging field of specialized medicine) at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Over the span of his career in emergency medicine, he directed groundbreaking process changes in the emergency medicine departments at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Gaithersburg, MD, where he created a helicopter-facilitated, rapid response trauma team. At the Medical Center of Beaver County in Rochester, PA, he was instrumental in facilitating the implementation of an emergency response system that utilized "911" for the first time. He also served as Medical Director of the emergency medical unit at Southern Baptist Hospital of New Orleans, LA.

Fortuna was recruited in 1990 to join General Motors' 3,500-employee assembly plant in Baltimore, MD, as Medical Director of its Occupational Medicine Department. While at GM, he served as a Senior Associate in the Division of Occupational Medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and developed several ground-breaking health systems, including a health-information system pilot project, a case-management system, a patient-flow system, in-plant medical specialty services, and a PPO system for 10 of Maryland's largest self-insured companies.

In 1996, Fortuna joined Dorland Global, an international healthcare communications consultancy in Philadelphia, PA, as Senior Vice-President for Medical Affairs and Interactive Services, where he developed a clinical trials marketing program and a productivity initiative for healthcare payers, and he also led the development of Dorland's interactive digital services division.

Fortuna became Medical Director of two divisions of Delphi Corporation in 2002 to oversee the medical affairs of more than 70 plants worldwide, solidifying his career shift to occupational and environmental medicine. At Delphi, he oversaw development of a corporate health information system that integrated data from 30 plants together in real time to speed the production of timely injury and incident reports, reduce safety-related incidents, and contribute to cost reductions. While at Delphi, Fortuna became active in Michigan state medical affairs, joining the Michigan Primary Care Consortium (MPCC), a state-wide, non-profit organization of diverse stakeholders with interests in the delivery of primary healthcare.

In 2004, Fortuna founded and served as Co-Chair of the Health Steering Committee of the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG), a 1,500-member association of companies that developed alliances with the Business Advisory Group, Waste and Inefficiency Roundtable, the American Medical Association, the Medical Banking Project, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC), and dozens of other stakeholders in government and private industry to form initiatives that address root causes of waste and inefficiency in healthcare.

Later in his career, Fortuna formed PRISM, a nonprofit corporation engaged in process and quality improvement in medicine that reduced waste and transformed organizational culture in dozens of primary care practices to create patient-centered medical homes.

In 2014, Fortuna was honored by the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) with its Meritorious Service Award and, in 2015, he was elevated to ACOEM Fellowship status. Fortuna was an active member of ACOEM for more than 25 years, serving as a member of the Board of Directors, Speaker of the House of Delegates as well as the founder and chair of the ACOEM Special Interest Section for Underserved Occupational Populations (SUOP). He also served as Chair of ACOEM's Environmental Protection Agency Task Force to comment on the agency's proposed rulemaking on pesticides and agricultural worker protection standards.

Fortuna was the Chair of the ASQ Healthcare Division from July 2010 to December 2013. His leadership in that role and other positions and projects for the division were instrumental in increasing the scope and success of its contributions to the field of quality in healthcare and creating a sustainable platform for the division's future.