



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Wendy Wicks, 612-306-3698, [wwicks@ucare.org](mailto:wwicks@ucare.org)

## **UCare's first virtual "A Salute to Excellence!" celebrates 21 providers**

### ***Minnesota clinics and care systems recognized for outstanding 2019 HEDIS results***

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 15, 2020 — [UCare](#), a community-based, nonprofit health plan, held its 12<sup>th</sup> annual – and first virtual – “A Salute to Excellence!” event Thursday evening, Oct. 1. The event honored 21 Minnesota clinics and care systems with top results in 2019 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures. Awards were given for health care providers’ performance delivering high-quality care to UCare’s Medicare, Medicaid and Special Needs Plan members.

This year’s A Salute to Excellence! was hosted online, with more than 70 health care clinicians and staff in attendance. The evening opened with remarks from UCare President and CEO Mark Traynor. “Our health care provider partners are essential to UCare’s people power. Especially during a public health crisis, we owe our providers profound thanks for continuing to serve our members and provide them a path for their best health,” said Traynor at the event. “You’re on the front lines every day making a difference for our members.”

The opening remarks were followed by a feature presentation from Michael J. Joyner, MD, on Mayo Clinic’s breakthrough work in Covid-19 treatment. Dr. Joyner is an Anesthesiologist at Mayo Clinic and Principal Investigator in the Expanded Access Program (EAP) for convalescent plasma to fight Covid-19. Attendees engaged in lively discussion about the promising research presented by Dr. Joyner.

Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Julia Joseph-Di Caprio, MD, honored guests with UCare Excellence in Health Care Awards for their quality results. “Your partnership is vital to UCare’s mission,” stressed Dr. Joseph-Di Caprio. “In 2019, you provided our members and your patients with high-quality preventive care, disease management, behavioral health services, maternity care, and assistance with care transitions and medication management.”

A Salute to Excellence! honored the following clinics and care systems from across Minnesota and western Wisconsin:

- [Alexandria Clinic](#)
- [Allina Health](#)
- [Altru Health System](#)
- [Bluestone Care Coordination](#)
- [CentraCare](#)
- [Community-University Health Care Center, University of Minnesota](#)
- [Essentia Health](#)
- [Fairview Mesaba Clinics](#)
- [Fairview Physician Associates Network](#)
- [Genevive](#)
- [Gundersen Health System](#)
- [HealthPartners/Park Nicollet](#)
- [HealthPartners/Stillwater Medical Group](#)
- [Hennepin Healthcare System](#)
- [Integrity Health Network](#)
- [M Physicians](#)
- [Mayo Clinic](#)
- [NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center](#)
- [Olmsted Medical Center](#)
- [Sanford Health](#)
- [Winona Health Services](#)

### **About UCare**

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 500,000 members throughout Minnesota and parts of western Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver Medicare, Medicaid and Individual & Family health plans.

The health plan addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for ten consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.