

INNOVATOR



of the YEAR AWARDS

PAST AWARD WINNERS

2026

Peman Montazemi, Finally Quiet, Inc.
Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, ECOS
Rick Van Kirk, Pro-Dex
Peter Adderton, MobileX Global
Ed Kim, M.D., City of Hope Orange County

2025

Dana Biechele-Speziale, ATOMICS
Thomas W. Burns, Glaukos Corporation
Brett Wall, Medtronic
Kathy Azeez-Naraian, Hoag
Eason Abbott & Dustin Armer, Renata Medical

2024

Arun Gupta, Big Health
Kamran Ansari, Fluxwear
Danny Mendoza, Foster Love
Cheri Tree, Codebreaker Technologies
Raymond Cohen, Axonics, Inc.

2023

Robert Brunswick, Buchanan Street Partners
Ramin Mousavi, Cathworks
Rob Phillips, Phillips Industries, Phillips Connect,
Phillips Innovations
Jennifer Friend, Project Hope Alliance
Alex Parker, Redline Detection

2022

Dr. Hans Keirstead, AIVITA Biomedical Inc.
Ike Kavas, Ephesoft
Benjamin Tigner, Overair
Justin Chen Li, Helio Genomics
Krzysztof Palczewski, UCI School of Medicine

2021

Dr. Kenneth J. Chang, UCI Health Digestive
Health Institute
Nicolaas Verheem, Teradek LLC
Tony Smith, Restaurant365
Tim Nguyen, MeridianLink
Claude Tellis, Naturade
Phillip Felgner, Director of the UCI Vaccine Research
and Development Center

2020

Reza Rofougaran, Movandi
Michael Dennin, Univ. of California, Irvine
Bob Wolpert, Golden State Foods Corp.
Martha Montoya, Agtools
Kurt Busch, Syntiant Corp.

2019

John Kao, Alignment Healthcare
Neel Grover, Indi
Mark Bachman, Xidas; Formerly Integra Devices
Ray Grainger, Mavenlink
Andrew Ninh, Docbot

2018

Kyle Kamrooz, Cloudivirga
David M. Patrick, Shark Wheel
Michael Seres, 11 Health and Technologies Inc.
Mike Hopkins, Ice Energy
Nick Newsom, Ytel

2017

Shaheen Sadeghi, LAB Holdings LLC
Joe E. Kiani, Masimo Corp.
Lori Torres, Parcel Pending Inc.
Dr. Andre Vovan, St. Joseph Hoag Health
Phu Hoang, Virtium Technology Inc.

2016

Dr. Aaron Elliott, Ambry Genetics
Stuart McClure, Cylance
Annette Walker, Providence St. Joseph Health
Dr. Benjamin Park, Enevate Corp.
Dr. Mitchell Brin, Allergan

2015

Ronald Simon, RSI Holding LLC,
RSI Home Products, The Simon Foundations
Stuart Frost, Frost Data Capital
Francisco Morales, 5.11 Tactical
Stan Rowe, Edwards Lifesciences
Newth Morris, Telogis
William Wang, VIZIO Inc.