



OSF® HEALTHCARE

OSF HealthCare recognizes emergency department physician with inaugural Innovator of the Year award

Winner helped startup develop a software platform to ease use of portable ultrasound images for diagnosis and treatment

For Immediate Release

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(April 31, 2023 | PEORIA, Illinois) – John Wipfler, MD, an attending emergency room physician at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria is the inaugural winner of the OSF Innovation Award. The OSF Innovator of the Year Award is an annual honor that recognizes individuals who are advancing the OSF Vision of transforming health care.

Michelle Conger, OSF HealthCare Chief Strategy officer and CEO of OSF OnCall Digital Health says the award also acknowledges Mission Partners (employees) who go beyond their traditional role to solve a challenge.

“This isn’t part of their everyday job and so they saw something; a problem as really an opportunity and they applied innovation to be able to solve that. It’s a different way of thinking.”

Dr. Wipfler received the award during a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the [Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center](#). He was recognized for his work with OSF Ventures portfolio company, [Exo®](#), (pronounced “echo”), a hand-held ultrasound company. He and others collaborated to create a software platform to make ultrasound technology simpler so more providers can use the imaging at the point of care to improve diagnosis and treatment, and improve patient outcomes.

Dr. Wipfler is excited about the opportunity to expand use of ultrasound to save lives.

“It’s gonna be fast, it’s gonna be accurate. It’s going to do things we needed to do, Dr. Wipfler says. “I’m really excited about that. So be able to work with OSF to help create that ... bring it about, it’s been an honor.”

In the not-too-distant future, Dr. Wipfler sees hand-held ultrasound being used in a variety of medical settings.

“I think in the next 5 to 10 years, I think you’re gonna see every physician out there have a small portable ultrasound in their pocket. They’ll have a stethoscope too probably, but they’re gonna have this piece of equipment called bedside ultrasound or actually just an ultrasound probe that hooks up to their phone. It’s going to be saving lives ... making a big difference,” Dr. Wipfler predicts

Michelle Conger says Dr. Wipfler also helped advance the vision for OSF Innovation and the Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center with a far-reaching innovation.

“This can help multiple organizations and in the US and beyond, honestly. That's one of the things when we started Jump, we wanted to have a global impact, and it so rewarding to start to see that happen. And this is just, I think, one example.”

Dr. Wipfler was selected from among 16 nominees for this year's Innovator of the Year award.

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OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system owned and operated by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, headquartered in Peoria, Illinois. OSF HealthCare employs nearly 24,000 Mission Partners in 150 locations, including 15 hospitals. OSF HealthCare, through OSF Home Care Services, operates an extensive network of home health and hospice services. It also owns Pointcore, Inc., comprised of health care-related businesses and OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the organization. Learn more about OSF at osfhealthcare.org.

OSF Innovation was launched in 2016 as a multidisciplinary innovation center focused on internal and external innovation to solve the largest health care challenges. More at www.osfinnovation.org

Jump Trading Simulation and Education Center, a part of [OSF Innovation](https://www.osfinnovation.org), is a collaboration between University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria and OSF HealthCare. Jump replicates a variety of patient care settings to ensure novice and seasoned clinicians can practice handling medical situations in a real-world environment. Boasting six floors and 168,000 square feet, the center is one of the largest of its kind and provides space for conferences, anatomic training, virtual reality and innovation. For more information, visit www.jumpsimulation.org.