

## Transcript of Media for OSF Innovator of the Year

### **Katie Willerton, occupational therapist OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center and 2024 OSF Innovator of the Year**

Nurse call buttons can pose a challenge for patients with neurological challenges due to stroke or trauma.

**“To have to be able to make a pinch, we have to have pretty good strength and dexterity to do that. So it made it very difficult for the patients that don't have that to access or nurse by simply just pushing a button. That sounds easy. But when you no longer have movement in your hands, it's very difficult.”**

A smart hospital room with voice activated controls could help neuro patients.

**“I think there are simple things that we take for granted that is really taken away from some of our patients because of something that's happened to them neurologically. So ideally, it'd be wonderful for our patients to have that. I think it's going to decrease anxiety that our patients have if they can't access their nurses or their environment.” (:20)**

**“Just imagine you're completely 100% independent one second and literally dependent on somebody else the next second.” So, with that in mind, it's our responsibility as health care providers to help empower our patients to help them regain their independence and something as simple as being able to access their call light, I think is a really good first step.” (:25)**

### **Michelle Conger, Chief Strategy Officer & CEO of OSF OnCall**

Willerton's project could greatly improve neuro patients' hospital experience

**“For individuals who have spinal cord injuries and just the loss of control in their life and really trying to think about a tech enabled room to solve that, I mean that is really life changing for those individuals and really has the opportunity to be scaled for many other patients.” (:22)**

Mission Partners who try to innovate go above and beyond, often giving their own time to advance projects

**“They really have a passion for improving patient care or process work by creating something new and having an impact and so we really want to reward those individuals recognize them for doing that.” (:15)**