

BROADCAST-OSF 2024 Innovator of the Year is championing smart hospital rooms

Anchor Lede: OSF HealthCare has named an occupational therapist who works with patients suffering from neurological challenges as its 2024 Innovator of the Year. Katie Willerton is working toward a pilot of a smart hospital room to help patients with movement and dexterity problems have been access to important controls in their room

VO or Radio Package

Spending nearly three decades as a bedside occupational therapist helping patients who've had a spinal cord injury, stroke or seizure ... Katie Willerton says patients feel the impact of losses. So, a smart room – perhaps with voice activated controls to call a nurse or change TV channels could give them a better experience during their hospital stay.

SOT-KATIE WILLERTON

"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."
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Willerton is working with OSF Innovation to research and then test various tech options to see which have the most useability and value not only for neuro patients, but perhaps for others throughout OSF hospitals.

ANCHOR TAG: Willerton was among five finalists for the second annual award announced tonight following an Innovation Academic Incubator symposium.