



OSF HealthCare Innovator of the Year gives new hope to people facing amputations

For Immediate Release

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(April 16 2025 | PEORIA, Illinois) – Eric Martin, DO, chief of Vascular Surgery at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, has received the OSF HealthCare 2025 Innovator of the Year award.

Dr. Martin [is preventing amputations using regenerative reconstruction](#), a groundbreaking approach that promotes healing and tissue regeneration through advanced therapies including products made up of animal tissue (xenografts) and human tissue (allografts). This includes fish skin, pig intestine, pig bladder, cow tendon and tissue from human umbilical cords that come from women who have planned, elective C-sections.

Dr. Martin received the award during an OSF Innovation Showcase at [Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center](#).

The Innovator of the Year award is an annual honor that recognizes individuals who are advancing our vision of transforming health care. These Mission Partners:

- Spearhead transformative change aligned with the Mission and Vision of OSF
- Bring forward new ideas and invest time in exploring novel approaches
- Demonstrate a proactive approach in fostering partnerships to revolutionize health care
- Solve complex challenges internally and within the broader community

“Dr. Martin last year provided the first-ever surgical treatment a patient with a rare autoimmune disease called [pyoderma gangrenosum](#). He is saving limbs *and* lives because often he’s treating patients whose wounds have become so terrible, they are on the brink of dying from sepsis, a blood-borne infection,” explains Becky Buchen, senior vice president of Innovation, OSF HealthCare. “We have a remarkable innovator in Dr. Martin who has figured out how a wide variety of products can work together synergistically to help save limbs. And, we’re proud that he’s teaching other surgeons around the world how to do the same.”

During 22 years in the U.S. Army, Dr. Martin spent time at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, a partner of the Veterans Administration. While there, he treated many veterans with tissue damage, gangrene or non-healing wounds from multi-level, chronic peripheral artery disease. So, he became immersed in vascular reconstructions as well as reconstruction of lower extremities for limb salvage.

In accepting the award, Dr. Martin emphasized that he’s thrilled to be able to be a source of hope for people.

"I feel fortunate to be at OSF HealthCare, which has invested a lot of time and resources to build up the most advanced regenerative reconstructive practice in the state of Illinois, to serve as a destination center and a tertiary care referral center for cases that other health systems don't want to take," Dr. Martin exclaims. "We can offer hope to people who have run out of hope."

Dr. Martin points out OSF HealthCare is taking on patients with the worst medical co-morbidities including heart, kidney, liver and lung failure, complex peripheral artery disease and poorly controlled diabetes, which results in patients coming to OSF in septic shock, near death with a massively infected chronic wound. "We try to save their life and we've been pretty successful doing that."

He also credited excellent wound care team members along with hospitalists, internal medicine physicians and many medical sub-specialists including endocrinologists, pulmonologists and cardiologists who provide care for these patients.

"Because of the way OSF is structured, we have so many specialists in our hospital, we're able to give these patients optimal, premium health care from all levels – not just treating the wound but treating the patient globally with comprehensive health care," Dr. Martin stresses.

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OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system founded by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Headquartered in Peoria, Illinois, OSF HealthCare has 17 hospitals – 11 acute care, five critical access, one continuing care – with 2,305 licensed beds throughout Illinois and Michigan. OSF employs more than 26,000 Mission Partners across 160+ locations and includes OSF OnCall, the digital health operating entity which offers a hospital-at-home. Advances in health care transformation take place through OSF Innovation and OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois, the third largest pediatric hospital in Illinois, cares for our smallest patients. In addition, OSF has two colleges of nursing; operates OSF Home Care Services, an extensive network of home health and hospice services; owns Pointcore, Inc., comprised of health care-related businesses; OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the organization; and OSF Ventures, which provides investment capital for promising health care innovation startups. OSF HealthCare has been recognized by Fortune as one of the most innovative companies in the country. More at osfhealthcare.org.

OSF Innovation is a collaborative network of different disciplines that designs bold, strategic solutions to advance the future of health care. Learn more at osfinnovation.org.