

Transcript of Media- OSF HealthCare and U of I train future doctors to innovate for equity in medicine

Dr. John Vozenilek, OSF Innovation

EquiMED program teaches innovation through problem solving and provide skills alumni take into their residencies and practices.

"They are using their innovation skillset every single day. She (a former student at a recent gathering) said that she is using these innovation tools when she interviews patients to go deeper into their needs so she can think of new solutions to their problems." (:12)

Students also stress importance of developing soft skills, such as listening and collaborating, says Dr. Vozenilek.

"So, this idea of co-design, to really get to the patients' needs and to really understand them fully and then design with the patient, the solution. Now that's relevant for very complicated type of treatment paths that require a lot of technology, but it's also extremely important for the types of simple things we do every day to keep ourselves and our loved ones healthy." (:21)

Devon Izquierdo, a fourth-year medical student at University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria (UICOMP)

Izquierdo says they decided to focus on a solution that involved children.

"Because they seemed more open and inviting to outsiders and we decided to create an educational game where they would learn how to treat common ailments like stomach aches, not only with their traditional medicine, but also with evidence-based medicine that we use in our Western culture and hopefully disseminate that information to the adult population as well." (:23)

Medical students including Izquierdo met with key stakeholders in the indigenous community in Brazil.

"We worked with one of the healers, Sonja Christina, as well as some of the leadership – her son Jefferson – to really get their input on the game and see what kids would really get excited about." She adds, "So the next step would be to develop a prototype and bring it back to the community to see, does it really work, do they really enjoy it and where can we adjust as needed."(:22)

EquiMED program taught Izquierdo the valuable lesson of listening critically and continuously.

"Continue to have a conversation. Build trust in the community and really come up with a solution together because, ultimately, we want to create a solution that they're going to use – that really solves the issue that they want. We can always come in with ideas and a

high-tech solution but if it's not feasible and they're not going to use it, are we really solving the problem that we're trying to solve?" (:22)

Ben Mendez, fourth-year EquiMED student

Mendez says it's not ideal, but students landed on creating a water monitoring system because it is the most feasible, sustainable option.

"Instead of completely reshaping the infrastructure that doesn't exist there, we're just trying to give them a way to get ahead of a problem before it starts and alert them and give them a fighting chance to not drink this contaminated water essentially." (:15)

Mendez predicts he'll use that innovative skills as he practices medicine in the future.

"So understanding how to work within the constraints of a financially driven system, which is the reality we're in, will prepare me better for my residency and helping my career in finding solutions that we can still keep these basic services that we must as providers, but do it in a way that we can justify the cost and keep the lights on essentially." (:25)