It seems that technology is constantly changing and improving our lives. This is especially true in healthcare, where new innovations enhance the way we care for patients every day and save lives.

At Inspira Health Network, we are fortunate to have an excellent Information Technology (IT) team that is driving healthcare innovation forward here in our community. In fact, thanks to their efforts, Inspira was recently recognized with the 2016 Most Wired Health System Award from Hospitals and Health Networks magazine.

To select the winners, the American Hospital Association conducts an annual survey measuring IT use and adoption in hospitals across the nation. Their survey analyzes how organizations leverage IT to improve safety and quality of care, and clinical integration. Inspira was one of only 364 healthcare organizations nationwide to receive this award and this is the second time our network was recognized.

It is an honor to once again receive this prestigious award. What makes me most proud is that by introducing dozens of new technologies and initiatives in recent years, we have improved the way we care for patients.

With the rapid changes in our industry, it is more important than ever that we introduce technologies that digitally connect our network, our physicians and our patients. That is why we recently selected Cerner, a global leader in healthcare technology, to implement our new network-wide health IT system. We call it InspiraOne and this integrated system will enhance the delivery of care across our network.

InspiraOne is more than just a health IT system. It’s the catalyst to dramatically transform the way we care for our patients at every Inspira location. InspiraOne will provide one electronic health record for every patient at our more than 125 access points. That means that your medical record seamlessly follows you everywhere within Inspira Health Network, giving your providers immediate and comprehensive information about your care.

We are also working with Cerner to implement HealtheIntentSM, a near real-time population health management platform that will bring patient information from many community sources into a single patient record. What this means for you, is that the 1,100 doctors on our Medical Staffs will have an even more holistic view of your health status using many sources of digital information. This allows them to identify opportunities to improve your care coordination among all of your providers across our region.

While this technology will make an enormous impact on how we care for your family, many patients won't even be aware that it is in place. That is why we are also taking this healthcare data and technology and placing it right into your hands. With our smart phone applications, My Inspira and Inspira Access, you can view your medical records, make appointments, check in at urgent care centers and navigate to all of our locations right on your phone.

Digital access to our services is a true passion of mine, not just because of its innovation, but because it makes it easier for our patients to find the care that they need, when they need it. And that ultimately leads to a healthier community.

We have created a smart phone application just for our physicians and staff, too. Called Practice Unite, the app allows our doctors and staff to communicate in a completely secure environment from their phones, which significantly reduces overhead pages in our medical centers. That not only improves the efficiency of our teams, but it also reduces noise in our buildings, making our patients more comfortable.

I am extremely proud to be among the nation's Most Wired healthcare organizations thanks to Inspira’s Information Technology team and the excellent work they do. They are not only improving the way we deliver care, they are also enhancing patient engagement and satisfaction. For more information about technology and services at Inspira Health Network, please visit our website at InspiraHealthNetwork.org.