

Dr. Lisa Finkelstein Receives the 2023 Dr. James Bush Award for Excellence in Telehealth

The Wyoming Telehealth Consortium is pleased to announce that Dr. Lisa Finkelstein is the winner of the 2023 Dr. James Bush Award for Excellence in Telehealth. This award is a testament to her dedication to advancing healthcare accessibility and quality through telemedicine. The annual Dr. James Bush Award for Excellence in Telehealth, established in 2022, recognizes telehealth champions for their leadership and contributions to advancing health access through the promotion and/or practice of telehealth in Wyoming. This year Dr. Finkelstein was honored for her unwavering commitment to providing high-quality telehealth services to patients and clients, particularly during the pandemic.

Before her role as the Medical Director of Telehealth at St. John's Health in Jackson, Dr. Finkelstein practiced urology for over 20 years. She received nominations from four different agencies and state-wide telehealth champions, all attesting to her commitment to telehealth. Nominators noted that her leadership and advocacy in this area started well before 2020, leading the charge at local, state, and federal levels.

One nominator wrote, "There is not a better champion of telehealth than Dr. Finkelstein. Lisa has put heart and soul into spreading the message. She does it with such intention, thoughtfulness, and creativity. It shows through her leadership research, and advocacy at all levels."

In accepting the award, Dr. Finkelstein commented, "I am honored to receive this award. We have been advocating for telehealth for many years and now the wheels are moving forward. Telehealth has indeed become an integral part of healthcare delivery in our rural state of Wyoming, offering numerous benefits to both patients and healthcare providers. It's clear that telehealth is here to stay, and it has the potential to continue evolving and improving healthcare delivery." The award's namesake, Dr. James Bush, who was the Wyoming Department of Health Medicaid and Medical Director and a tireless advocate for expanding healthcare in Wyoming through telehealth. Before his retirement in

2022, Dr. James Bush spent over sixteen years leading the effort to expand telehealth services in Wyoming and served as the Wyoming Telehealth Consortium's first chairperson.

The Wyoming Telehealth Consortium is a statewide collaboration supported by the Office of Rural Health and chaired by the current Director of Wyoming Medicaid, Dr. Paul Johnson. This group includes key members of the healthcare community including the Wyoming Medical Society, the Wyoming Hospital Association, multiple Wyoming hospitals, individual healthcare professionals and providers, federally qualified health centers, Wyoming Chapters of AARP, Alzheimer and Multiple Sclerosis Society, Mountain Pacific Quality Health, the University of Wyoming, College of Health Sciences, and the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities. The consortium is committed to promoting telehealth to address many of the rural healthcare challenges faced across the state by building a sustainable infrastructure to increase access to, and implementation of telehealth health services across Wyoming.

Learn more about what telehealth can do for you. Visit wyomingtelehealth.org for more information.