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Dr. Johnson is an internationally respected developer and evaluator of clinical information technology. His research interests have been related to developing and encouraging the adoption of clinical information systems to improve patient safety and compliance with practice guidelines. He is widely known for his work with e-prescribing and computer-based documentation, as well as his recent creative endeavors to communicate science to lay audiences, including a feature length documentary about health information exchange.

He is the author of over 150 publications and has won dozens of awards over his career. Notably, he was elected to the American College of Medical Informatics in 2004, The Academic Pediatric Society in 2010, the National Academy of Medicine (Institute of Medicine) in 2010, and the International Association of Health Science Informatics in 2021.