

Strategy & Innovation Update



Ascension

All systems go with Technology Mergers & Acquisitions Center of Excellence

When you hear the term “mergers and acquisitions,” financials quickly come to mind. One company purchases – or sells – another company or part of another company. But there is much more to the story than just the financial transaction.

Of all the complexities to consider in a merger, acquisition, divestiture or joint venture, the importance of technology considerations has increased substantially in recent years as technology has become firmly embedded in the vast majority of key clinical and operational workflows. To ensure a smooth transition, Ascension Technologies has created the Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) Center of Excellence (CoE), which focuses on proactively understanding each deal’s technology implications and managing those effectively.

Acquiring a new organization with its own time-tested processes, culture and infrastructure can be challenging. Understanding the differences and how to navigate through the gaps are key to successfully integrating the technology components of the new unit within Ascension. Likewise, a successful divestiture means getting “our house in order” for the buyer, even if that means separating data for up to 500 applications to ensure we can accommodate what the acquiring company wants to do.

Jennifer Vaught, leader of the M&A team, has been with Ascension Technologies for 20 years and has been involved in 20 M&A transactions. “You learn something new for each one,” she says about our growing IT M&A knowledge base.

Monica Chesini, who recently joined Ascension Technologies to help lead this effort, focuses on developing consistent technology investment strategies during the due diligence and discovery phase of a deal. She comes to Ascension from the Cleveland Clinic, where she managed mergers and acquisitions integration for its IT division.

The AT M&A team will approach potential deals with a baseline strategy for integrations to drive consistency and ensure a tight integration on IT systems, services and data flow – always while considering the provider and patient experience.

As our Strategic Business Development group led by **Hugh Middlebrooks** and **Brad Partridge** executes M&A activities in alignment with Ascension’s strategic vision, the AT M&A CoE will continue to engage with that team as well as our business partners and subject matter experts from across Strategy & Innovation to consider options and develop a repeatable framework that will result in a thoughtfully developed and proven technology pattern for the various deals.

Jennifer and Monica and their AT M&A team are part of a larger multi-disciplinary Ascension M&A effort that includes subject matter experts focused on legal, finance, supply chain, facilities and human resources, to name a few. This team works together as stewards of Ascension's M&A commitments to ultimately ensure that the organization can continue to deliver outstanding patient care.

Ascension named 'Most Wired'

Ascension was named one of the [Most Wired](#) healthcare organizations by the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME). The Digital Health Most Wired program looked at more than 30,000 organizations to assess how effectively healthcare organizations apply core and advanced technologies into their clinical and business programs to improve health and care in their communities. Tools developed by our team such as Ascension Online Care and Remote Patient Monitoring have expanded access to care, a key element of the Most Wired assessment.

More News

A [Wall Street Journal article](#) highlights how Ascension and other organizations are using data science to drive quarterly budget planning and adjust revenue goals.

Read about how OneNurse and mySchedule are helping improve nurses' work environments and daily practice in the latest edition of [Ascension Nurse magazine](#).

Be sure to check out the new [Good Day Ascension Newscast](#), highlighting stories about living our Mission and realizing our Vision across Ascension. If you have a story idea for an upcoming newscast – or for a podcast episode, send it to goodday@ascension.org.

Ascension's Wysa well-being mobile app can help with enhancing your sleep, mood, resilience, gratitude, physical fitness and much more. It also links directly to resources like spiritual care, Ascension Online Care, myCare, crisis support and your employee assistance program (EAP) – anytime, anywhere. Ascension Wysa is free, anonymous and available to your immediate family members as well. Click [here](#) to learn more.

This publication provides a news summary to associates across the Strategy & Innovation team led by Eduardo Conrado, including our Ascension Technologies, Ascension Studio, Ascension Data Science Institute, Strategy, Strategic Business Development, Ascension Connect and Agilify teams. See news archive [here](#).

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