



Gerald B. Hickson, MD
Joseph C. Ross Chair of Medical Education and Administration at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Founding Director, Center for Patient and Professional Advocacy

Brief Bio

Gerald B. Hickson joined the Vanderbilt Department of Pediatrics in 1982 and has served in multiple capacities. In 2003, he founded the Center for Patient and Professional Advocacy.

Since 1990, Dr. Hickson's research has focused on why families choose to file suit and how to identify and intervene with high-risk physicians. His work has resulted in over 170 peer review articles and chapters; educational initiatives to promote disclosure of medical errors and address behaviors that undermine a culture of safety; and the development of PARS[®] (Patient Advocacy Reporting System) and CORSsm (Coworker Observation Reporting System), programs that use unsolicited patient and coworker complaint data as the basis for tiered interventions on high-risk clinicians.

Dr. Hickson serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). He has served as Chair of the Board of the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF), Professionals in Patient Safety (CBPPS), and the Quality Care Committee for the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI).

Dr. Hickson received a BS from the University of Georgia and MD from Tulane University School of Medicine.