

Avant Leadership Tour 2013

Committed to
continuous education

23-29 August 2013



Dr Gerald Hickson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday 25 June 2013

Understanding the link between performance and professionalism

"Disruptive behaviours that frequently arise in high-stress areas such as operating rooms, medical-surgical units and intensive care units often go unacknowledged and unaddressed," said [Dr Gerald Hickson](#) who will tour Australia between 23-29 August.

"This can interfere with individual performance, team cohesion, and system reliability."

Avant, Australia's leading MDO, is hosting a series of free seminars for medical students and healthcare professionals in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane. The events will include a one hour direct address by Dr Hickson followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session with the audience. A recorded webinar will be available through Avant's website for healthcare professionals who are unable to attend the events.

Avant Head of Member Risk Management, Adam Golabek, said that in its 120th year of supporting healthcare professionals, Avant wanted to demonstrate a commitment to continuous education for the benefit of its members and the wider healthcare community.

"Raising awareness of certain high-risk individual medical behaviours that can lead to errors, patient complaints and litigation is the first step in managing this risk, improving patient safety and ultimately providing more rewarding careers for our members," Adam Golabek said.

Dr Hickson's work over 20 years has examined the underlying reasons medical complaints are made against doctors. His research has shown that disruptive behaviours such as physical and verbal outbursts, professional jousting, inadequate documentation and failing to answer calls and pages, has a direct impact on patient outcomes.

"The key to being able to identify, measure and address unprofessional behaviours is a supportive infrastructure that includes leadership's commitment to professional accountability," says Dr Hickson.

Medical students and healthcare professionals who are interested in attending Avant's inaugural Leadership Tour can register their interest at the [Avant website](#).

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Event details are as follows:

- **Perth:** Friday 23 August, University of Western Australia
- **Melbourne:** Monday 26 August, St Vincent's Hospital
- **Sydney:** Tuesday 27 August, Garvin Institute of Medical Research
- **Webinar:** Wednesday 28 August
- **Adelaide:** Wednesday 28 August, Capri Theatre
- **Brisbane:** Thursday 29 August, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

"We are proud to bring a researcher of Dr Hickson's calibre to Australia," said Mr Golabek. "And we are looking forward to opening the debate on this important issue. I encourage doctors of all stages of their career to make the most of this opportunity."

For media inquiries please contact Avant Corporate Relations Manager Brad McLean on 02 9260 9198, mobile, 0434 182 951 or email, Brad.McLean@avant.org.au

About Gerald B. Hickson

Dr Hickson is the Joseph C. Ross Chair of Medical Education and Administration, Professor of Paediatrics and Associate Professor of Family and Health Systems Nursing at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Since 1990, Dr Hickson's research has focused on why families choose to file suit, why certain physicians attract a disproportionate share of claims and how to identify and intervene with high-risk physicians. His work has resulted in over 150 peer review articles and chapters; the development of PARS® peer-review system and several educational initiatives to promote disclosure of medical errors and address behaviours that undermine a culture of safety.

Dr Hickson currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF) and as Chair of the Board of Professionals in Patient Safety (CBPPS). Dr. Hickson received a BS from the University of Georgia and MD from Tulane University School of Medicine. He completed his paediatric residency and a fellowship in General Academic Paediatrics at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

About Avant: Avant is Australia's largest medical defence organisation representing more than 60,000 healthcare practitioners and students nationally.

Avant provides a range of professional indemnity and practice products for health care professionals. The organisation also operates the Avant Risk Advisory Service, the Medico-legal Advisory Service and an advocacy team. Avant also includes the Doctors' Health Fund, which provides individual health insurance cover to healthcare practitioners.