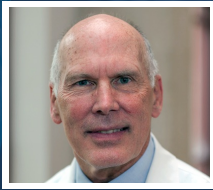


# Adaptive Healthcare



Frederick Southwick  
Professor, Medicine

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Reducing human errors to prevent patient injuries and death

Dr. Frederick Southwick recently competed in the Masters Rowing Competition as an above-the-knee amputee and placed with one gold and two silver medals. This accomplishment was achieved through the highly adaptive behaviors he has developed throughout his career as a professor, researcher, doctor, and father of two. His left leg was amputated in 2012 due to a surgery in 1995 that used a tourniquet under high pressure and for too long, damaging his blood vessels. Seventeen years after his surgery, he was shocked that due to continued scarring and calcification of his leg's blood vessels, he would require an amputation. Most shocking however, is the fact that Dr. Southwick lost his leg as a consequence of a preventable error, the very problem he has dedicated the the past three decades to studying and correcting.

Dr. Southwick, a Professor of Medicine at the University of Florida has a simple philosophy that no one should experience preventable trauma. However, estimates now suggest that preventable medical and surgical errors are the third leading cause of death in the United States. He therefore seeks to understand how to change systems so that in the future preventable errors are reduced. He has applied his strong basic research background and clinical expertise to develop and study protocols designed to improve the efficiency, quality, and safety of patient care. Much like Dr. Southwick's personal abilities to adapt to the challenges in his life, his research argues for medical professionals to integrate highly adaptive systems that will radically shift the processes of care rendering them more efficient and patient-centered. Rather than suggesting small changes with little progress, he...

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## AFFILIATION

 University of Florida

## EDUCATION

- MD, in Medicine, 1973 , Columbia College of Physicians

## AWARDS

- Association of Professors of Medicine
- University of Florida Research Foundation Professor Award

## RESEARCH AREAS

Humanities, Sociology, Psychology

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the research of Dr. Frederick Southwick as he continues to investigate the strategies, systems, and leadership styles that will eliminate preventable human errors and death now the third leading cause of death in the United States.

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