

Peter J. Pronovost, M.D., Ph.D., FCCM

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

Peter J. Pronovost, M.D., Ph.D., FCCM, is a practicing anesthesiologist and critical care physician, teacher, researcher, and international patient safety leader who champions scientifically rigorous yet common-sense approaches to eliminating medical errors and complications.

Born on February 22, 1965 in Waterbury, Connecticut; he is a graduate of St. Margaret School and Holy Cross High School. He received a B.S. from Fairfield University, an M.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and a Ph.D. in clinical investigation from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. In 2003, Dr. Pronovost became a Fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine (FCCM).

Dr. Pronovost is a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Departments of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine and Surgery; the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Health Policy and Management; and the School of Nursing. He is also medical director of the Center for Innovation in Quality Patient Care, which supports quality and safety efforts at the Johns Hopkins Hospitals.

In 2003 Dr. Pronovost established the Quality and Safety Research Group to advance the science of safety. He and his research team are dedicated to improving healthcare through methods that are not only scientifically rigorous, but practical for use at the bedside.

Dr. Pronovost chairs the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations Intensive Care Unit Advisory Panel for Quality Measures and the Intensive Care Unit Physician Staffing Committee for the Leapfrog Group. He serves on the Quality Measures Work Group of the National Quality Forum. He is an advisor to the World Health Organization's World Alliance for Patient Safety and is leading the WHO efforts to improve patient safety measurement, evaluation, and leadership capacity globally. In addition, he was invited to participate in the "Strengthening U.S. Medical and Public Health Research" Working Group of the Commission on U.S. Federal Leadership in Health and Medicine at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress in Washington, D. C.

The author of more than 270 articles and chapters in the fields of patient safety, ICU care, quality health care, evidence-based medicine, and the measurement and evaluation of safety efforts, Dr. Pronovost is also a frequent speaker on quality and safety leadership and implementation of large-scale change.

He has won several national awards for his research, including the 2004 John Eisenberg Patient Safety Research Award. He was also one of 25 individuals awarded a coveted MacArthur Fellowship in 2008, known popularly as the "genius grant".

In the same year, *Time* magazine named Dr. Pronovost one of the 100 "world's most influential people" for his work in patient safety – specifically a checklist for intensive care unit procedures inspired by the airline industry's routine safety checklist. The magazine's annual list recognizes people "whose power, talent or moral example is transforming our world".



Dr. Pronovost's work with blood stream infections associated with central line catheters won national acclaim when he effectively eliminated these infections across the entire state of Michigan. When used for 18 months in Michigan hospitals, the Checklist saved 1,500 lives and saved \$75 million. These results were subsequently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, marking the first successful large-scale scientific study in patient safety and quality control. His team is now working to implement this same program nationally and worldwide. If used in hospitals nationwide, the Pronovost Checklist could save between \$15 billion and \$25 billion a year in the cost of treating these infections.

The U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, chaired by Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), released a report strongly endorsing Dr. Pronovost's ICU infection prevention program, noting that its use has the potential of saving thousands of lives and millions of dollars in the United States.

In addition, Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski included a provision within the Senate's 2009 national health care reform bill to make innovations like the Pronovost Checklist available throughout the country.