

# International Conference on Human and Organizational Aspects of Assuring Nuclear Safety –Exploring 30 Years of Safety Culture



Contribution ID: 140

Type: **Invited Presentation**

## Patient Safety, Present and Future

*Tuesday, 23 February 2016 14:30 (30 minutes)*

### Synopsis

Healthcare tends to oversimplify patient safety concepts. We tend to think about patient safety as a linear dimension that is only associated with the progressive reduction in the number of errors and accidents, with the simple notion that more is always better. We consider figures in isolation from the underlying context and prerequisites that drive safety models and the reality of the clinical fields. There is no one ultimate reference model of safety, but many models that can be adapted to fit the various clinical fields requirements and constraints. It is therefore not necessarily a bad result to observe a lower safety figure in a medical domain compared to the figures obtained in non medical ultra safe models. The poor figures may represent the best local safety optimization while coping with the special healthcare requirements such as a high frequency of unplanned and non-standard challenges. The paper distinguishes three classes of safety models that fit different field demands: the resilient/adaptive model, the high reliability (HRO) model, and the ultra safe model. The lecture benchmarks the traits of each model while highlighting the specific dimensions for optimization. The conclusion is that firstly, that since the task requirements dictate the relevance and choice of the model and not the other way around, it is counterproductive to impose a model that is inadequate for the task requirements. Either you move the requirements and change the model, or you keep the constraints, and try to locally optimize the model to the clinical and organizational needs.

### Country or International Agency

The Netherlands

**Primary author:** AMALBERTI, Rene (Netherlands)

**Presenter:** AMALBERTI, Rene (Netherlands)

**Session Classification:** HR1: Other High Reliability Organizations' Approach to Safety