Professor Patrick Hudson

Patrick Hudson is one of the world’s leading authorities on the human factor in the management of safety, in the oil and gas industry, in commercial aviation, mining and in medicine.

He was the Project Leader of Shell International’s Tripod Research program, that led to the Organizational Accident model, known widely as the Swiss Cheese model. He was also one of the four-man team that developed Shell’s approach to safety management systems after the Piper Alpha disaster, which has served as the template for most Safety Management Systems worldwide. He then led Shell Group’s Hearts and Minds program on the development of safety culture in the Oil and Gas industry.

After BP’s Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico he chaired a new program for Shell on high consequence low probability accidents. In Oil and Gas he has also advised Total, Exxon-Mobil, BHP-Billiton, British Gas, ENI-Agip, Petrobras and BP.

He was a testifying expert witness on Safety Culture and Process Safety Management, representing Halliburton Energy Services, in the Federal Multi-District Litigation before the US 5th Federal Circuit in New Orleans – the BP Deepwater Horizon case, the world’s largest civil process. He chaired the Society of Petroleum Engineers summit on the Human Factor in Process Safety after the disaster.

In aviation he has worked across flight operations, maintenance and engineering with both Boeing and Airbus as well as British Airways, KLM, Air France, Lufthansa, Qantas, Ansett, CHC, Bristows, Singapore Airlines, Malaysian and Emirates. He is also a member of the International Expert Safety Team for the European Union’s research nuclear reactor.