

MELINDA (MEL) THACKER, MD, PCC

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Thacker Medical Consulting, LLC

Professional Summary

Fellowship-trained otolaryngologist with 13+ years of clinical experience focused on adult nasal and sinus disease and head & neck oncology. Extensive hands-on expertise in outpatient and operative rhinology, peri-operative decision-making, complication management, and multidisciplinary oncologic care. Experienced medical expert trained in legal, ethical, and procedural standards of expert witness work, skilled in translating complex ENT and surgical concepts into clear, jury-appropriate testimony.

Areas of Expert Testimony

- Sinus surgery and post-operative complications
- Balloon sinuplasty (office- and OR-based)
- CSF leak, skull base, and orbital injuries
- Diagnostic delays in sinonasal disease
- Standard of care, causation, and damages
- Rhinologic procedure outcomes
- Head & neck cancer diagnosis and treatment

Clinical Experience

Several thousand sinus surgeries and septoplasties; hundreds of head & neck cancer cases; significant office-based rhinologic procedures including balloon sinuplasty, sinus surgery, and septoplasty.

Current Positions

Otolaryngologist, Berkshire Health Systems — Pittsfield, MA (Aug 2025–Present)
Founder & CEO, Mel Thacker Coaching, LLC (Jan 2025–Present)
Co-Founder, The Hippocratic Collective (May 2025–Present)

Previous Positions

Partner, Associates in Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery, PC — Worcester, MA (Aug 2015–Dec 2024)
Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology, University of Florida—Jacksonville (July 2013–July 2015)

Expert Certification & Training

High Rock Certified Expert — High Rock Academy
Course: Basics for Becoming a Medical Expert (Issued Sept 2025)

Education & Training

Rhinology Fellowship — St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Boston (2013)
Residency, Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery — Baylor College of Medicine, Houston (2012)
MD — Medical College of Wisconsin (2007)

BA Biology & Spanish (Honors) — University of Wisconsin–Madison (2002)

Board Certification

American Board of Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery (2013)
Diplomate, American Board of Lifestyle Medicine (2020)

Licensure

Massachusetts — Active

Selected Speaking Engagements

“Seeing Beyond the Red Swans,” TEDx Manitou Springs (2025)
“How to Save Lives with Two Minutes of Listening,” TEDx South Lake Tahoe (2024)

Selected Publications

Opinion: “A Culture of Perfectionism Is Poisoning Young Surgeons,” Bulletin–AAO-HNS (May 2024)
Thacker M. Physical Activity. Otolaryngol Clin North Am (2025)
Davis-Malesevich MV, Takashima M. “Obstructive Sleep Apnea.” Conn’s Current Therapy (2015)

Coaching & Speaking (Separate Domain)

Professional Certified Coach (PCC). Founder of Mel Thacker Coaching, specializing in surgeon performance and high-stakes communication. TEDx speaker and co-founder of The Hippocratic Collective.

Consulting & Testimony

Available for plaintiff and defense medical record review, standards of care analysis, deposition, and trial testimony.