



## Aussama Nassar, MD, MSc, FACS, FRCSC

Clinical Associate Professor, Surgery - General Surgery

### CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Stanford Surgery Trauma and Critical Care**

300 Pasteur Dr Rm H3639

Stanford, CA 94305

Tel (650) 736-5800      Fax (650) 723-8378

### ACADEMIC CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Alternate Contact**

Kim Westenskow - Administrative Associate

**Email** kimwest@stanford.edu

**Tel** 650.736.8977

### Bio

---

#### BIO

Dr. Nassar is board-certified in both General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care in the United States and Canada, underscoring his exceptional expertise in these fields. He holds a Master of Science in Health Science Education from McMaster University, Canada, further solidifying his strong academic foundation.

Currently, Dr. Nassar serves as the inaugural Director of the Emergency General Surgery Service and the Director of the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Program at Stanford University. He is also the founder and director of the Surgery Resident Coaching Program. With over 12 years of clinical and academic experience at premier tertiary care referral centers across North America, Dr. Nassar brings unparalleled knowledge and leadership to his roles.

Dr. Nassar's clinical interests include trauma, acute care surgery, critical care, and a particular focus on abdominal wall reconstruction. As a dedicated clinician-educator, he is a certified simulation educator and serves as a course director for ATLS and ASSET programs. His research is centered on advancing surgical education, with an emphasis on fostering the development of non-technical skills in surgical training.

In addition to his educational initiatives, Dr. Nassar is actively engaged in developing innovative assessment tools for surgical trainees and addressing burnout among physicians and healthcare professionals. With a strong national and international presence, Dr. Nassar continues to shape the future of surgical education and healthcare delivery through his leadership, research, and advocacy.

#### CLINICAL FOCUS

- General Surgery
- Acute Care Surgery
- Trauma
- Critical Care
- Hernia

- Abdominal wall reconstruction
- EGD and Colonoscopy

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Associate Professor, Surgery - General Surgery

## ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Emergency General Surgery Medical Director, Stanford Health Care, (2024- present)
- Surgical Subcouncil lead, Stanford Health Care, (2020- present)
- Program Director, Surgical Critical Care fellowship, Stanford University, (2019- present)
- Director, Surgery Coaching Program, Stanford Healthcare, (2019- present)
- Unit Medical Director, Trauma K7 ward, Stanford Healthcare, (2019- present)
- Associate Program Director, Surgical Critical Care, Stanford University, (2018-2019)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- ISP Star Award; Improving Communication in the Operating Room - Labeled Scrub Caps., Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University (2023)
- Stanford Healthcare Staff Award in patient experience, Stanford Health Care (2023)
- Arthur L. Bloomfield Award in Recognition of Excellence in the Teaching of Clinical Medicine., Stanford School of Medicine (2022)
- CSRP (Cost Savings Reinvestment Program) recognition award, Stanford Health Care (2020)
- Staff Award for Outstanding Contribution as Relationship-centered Communication Leader, Stanford Healthcare (2019)

## BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Education Technology Committee Member, Association for Surgical Education (2022 - present)
- Graduate Surgical Education Committee Member, Association for Surgical Education (2022 - present)
- Simulation Committee Member, Association for Surgical Education (2022 - present)
- Critical Care Committee Member, American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) (2022 - present)

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Board Certification: Surgical Critical Care, American Board of Surgery (2021)
- Fellowship, Stanford University , Stanford Faculty Biodesign Fellowship (2019)
- Fellowship: McMaster University Michael G DeGroot School of Medicine Registrar (2012) Canada
- Residency: McMaster University Michael G DeGroot School of Medicine Registrar (2011) Canada
- Board Certification: General Surgery, American Board of Surgery (2011)
- MSc, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada , Health Science Education (2015)
- Board Certification: Critical Care Medicine, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (2012)
- Board Certification, American Board of Surgery , General Surgery (2011)
- Board Certification: General Surgery, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (2011)
- O-IMG Clerkship, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada , Clerkship Undergraduate program (2006)

## Publications

---

### PUBLICATIONS

- **Handoffs and transitions of care in the intensive care unit: an American Association for the Surgery of Trauma Critical Care Committee clinical consensus document.** *Trauma surgery & acute care open*

- Appelbaum, R. D., Farrell, M. S., Hoth, J. J., Jung, H. S., Pathak, A., Nassar, A. K., Cuschieri, J., Stein, D. M., Agapian, J. V.  
2025; 10 (1): e001677
- **Geriatric nutrition in the surgical patient: an American Association for the Surgery of Trauma Critical Care and Geriatric Trauma Committees clinical consensus document.** *Trauma surgery & acute care open*  
Farrell, M. S., Bongiovanni, T., Cuschieri, J., Egodage, T., Elkbuli, A., Gelbard, R., Jawa, R., Mitha, S., Nassar, A. K., Pathak, A., Peralta, R., Putnam, T., Stein, et al  
2025; 10 (1): e001602
  - **Fever and infections in surgical intensive care: an American Association for the Surgery of Trauma Critical Care Committee clinical consensus document.** *Trauma surgery & acute care open*  
Nohra, E., Appelbaum, R. D., Farrell, M. S., Carver, T., Jung, H. S., Kirsch, J. M., Kodadek, L. M., Mandell, S., Nassar, A. K., Pathak, A., Paul, J., Robinson, B., Cuschieri, et al  
2024; 9 (1): e001303
  - **Perceptions of Use of Names, Recognition of Roles, and Teamwork After Labeling Surgical Caps.** *JAMA network open*  
Wong, B. J., Nassar, A. K., Earley, M., Chen, L., Roman-Micek, T., Wald, S. H., Shanafelt, T. D., Goldhaber-Fiebert, S. N.  
2023; 6 (11): e2341182
  - **Leveraging What Goes Right to Improve Perioperative Safety.** *JAMA network open*  
Nassar, A. K., Goldhaber-Fiebert, S. N.  
2023; 6 (4): e237629
  - **Developing an Inpatient Relationship Centered Communication Curriculum (I-RCCC) rounding framework for surgical teams.** *BMC medical education*  
Nassar, A. K., Weimer-Elder, B., Yang, R., Kline, M., Dang, B. K., Spain, D. A., Knowlton, L. M., Valdez, A. B., Korndorffer, J. R., Johnson, T.  
2023; 23 (1): 137
  - **Developing a multi-departmental residency communication coaching program.** *Education for health (Abingdon, England)*  
Nassar, A. K., Sasnal, M., Miller-Kuhlmann, R. K., Jensen, R. M., Blankenburg, R. L., Rassbach, C. E., Smith-Bentley, M., Vyas, A., Korndorffer, J. R., Gold, C. A.  
2022; 35 (3): 98-104
  - **Virtual reality (VR) as a simulation modality for technical skills acquisition** *ANNALS OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY*  
Nassar, A. K., Al-Manaseer, F., Knowlton, L. M., Tuma, F.  
2021; 71
  - **Burnout among Academic Clinicians as It Correlates with Workload and Demographic Variables.** *Behavioral sciences (Basel, Switzerland)*  
Nassar, A. K., Reid, S. n., Kahnamoui, K. n., Tuma, F. n., Waheed, A. n., McConnell, M. n.  
2020; 10 (6)
  - **Mobile application-based guidelines to enhance patient care and provider education in trauma and acute care surgery.** *Trauma surgery & acute care open*  
Hakes, N. A., Kethman, W. C., Spain, D. n., Nassar, A. K.  
2020; 5 (1): e000479
  - **Tips for developing a coaching program in medical education.** *Medical education online*  
Miller-Kuhlmann, R., Sasnal, M., Gold, C. A., Nassar, A. K., Korndorffer, J. R., Van Schaik, S., Marmor, A., Williams, S., Blankenburg, R., Rassbach, C. E.  
2024; 29 (1): 2289262
  - **Strategies to foster stakeholder engagement in residency coaching: a CFIR-Informed qualitative study across diverse stakeholder groups.** *Medical education online*  
Sasnal, M., Jensen, R. M., Mai, U. T., Gold, C. A., Nassar, A. K., Korndorffer, J. R., Morris, A. M., Miller-Kuhlmann, R. K.  
2024; 29 (1): 2407656
  - **Response to "Taking Up the Challenge to Improve Name and Role Recognition in the Operating Room"** *JOURNAL OF PATIENT SAFETY*  
Wong, B. J., Nassar, A. K., Goldhaber-Fiebert, S. N.  
2024; 20 (5): e85-e86
  - **Impact of a coaching program on resident perceptions of communication confidence and feedback quality.** *BMC medical education*

- Gold, C. A., Jensen, R., Sasnal, M., Day, H. S., Miller-Kuhlmann, R. K., Blankenburg, R. L., Rassbach, C. E., Morris, A. M., Korndorffer, J. R., Nassar, A. K.  
2024; 24 (1): 435
- **Firearm-Related Injuries and the US Opioid and Other Substance Use Epidemic: A Nationwide Evaluation of Emergency Department Encounters.** *The Journal of surgical research*  
Tennakoon, L., Ko, A., Knight, A. W., Nassar, A. K., Wu, R., Spain, D. A., Knowlton, L. M.  
2024; 298: 128-136
  - **VENTILATOR WAVEFORM ANALYSIS: THE SQUARE ROOT SIGN IN A PATIENT WITH A TRACHEAL-PLEURAL FISTULA**  
Rozenbaum, D., Wingo, M., Patel, P., Nassar, A., Bedi, H., Lui, N.  
LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2024
  - **Social Determinants of Patients with Acute Uncomplicated Appendicitis: A National Evaluation of Ambulatory Surgery Centers**  
Tennakoon, L., Nassar, A., Spain, D. A., Knowlton, L. M.  
LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2023: S261-S262
  - **A National Evaluation of Emergency General Surgery Outcomes Among Hospitalized Cardiac Patients.** *The Journal of surgical research*  
Tennakoon, L., Hakes, N. A., Nassar, A. K., Spain, D. A., Knowlton, L. M.  
2022; 283: 24-32
  - **Firearm-Related Injuries and the US Opioid Epidemic: A Nationwide Evaluation of Emergency Department Encounters**  
Tennakoon, L. D., Nassar, A. K., Wanberg, J. A., Knowlton, L.  
LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2022: S45-S46
  - **Faculty Lead Coaching as a Method to Enhance Feedback Culture and Communication Skills Development in Surgical Education-Needs Assessment (Study in Progress)**  
Nassar, A., Sasnal, M., Tung, J., Ko, A., Esquivel, M., Knowlton, L.  
LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS.2022: S74
  - **Introducing advanced surgical tasks simulation for surgical training** *ANNALS OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY*  
Tuma, F., Knowlton, L. M., Nassar, A. K.  
2022; 77
  - **Introducing advanced surgical tasks simulation for surgical training.** *Annals of medicine and surgery (2012)*  
Tuma, F., Knowlton, L. M., Nassar, A. K.  
2022; 77: 103568
  - **The educational value of an audience response system use in an Iraqi medical school.** *BMC medical education*  
Tuma, F., Majeed, H., Blebea, J., Nassar, A., Durchholz, W. C., Schofield, S.  
2022; 22 (1): 319
  - **Labeled Surgical Caps: A Tool to Improve Perioperative Communication.** *Anesthesiology*  
Wong, B. J., Nassar, A. K., Goldhaber-Fiebert, S. N.  
2022
  - **Building a Trainee-led Research Community to Propel Academic Productivity in Health Services Research.** *Journal of surgical education*  
Choi, J., Tennakoon, L., Khan, S., Jaramillo, J. D., Rajasingh, C. M., Hakes, N. A., Forrester, J. D., Knowlton, L. M., Nassar, A. K., Weiser, T. G., Spain, D. A.  
2022
  - **Education research - Understanding the factors involved in inpatient communication for orthopedic trainees.** *Annals of medicine and surgery (2012)*  
Daniel, D., Avedian, R., Johnson, T., Michaud, J. B., Weimer-Elder, B., Kline, M., Nassar, A. K.  
2021; 72: 103079
  - **Virtual reality (VR) as a simulation modality for technical skills acquisition.** *Annals of medicine and surgery (2012)*  
Nassar, A. K., Al-Manaseer, F., Knowlton, L. M., Tuma, F.  
2021; 71: 102945
  - **Applying Bloom's taxonomy in clinical surgery: Practical examples.** *Annals of medicine and surgery (2012)*

- Tuma, F., Nassar, A. K.  
2021; 69: 102656
- **Actions to enhance interactive learning in surgery.** *Annals of medicine and surgery* (2012)  
Tuma, F., Malgor, R. D., Nassar, A. K.  
2021; 64: 102256
  - **Students and faculty perception of distance medical education outcomes in resource-constrained system during COVID-19 pandemic. A cross-sectional study.** *Annals of medicine and surgery* (2012)  
Tuma, F., Nassar, A. K., Kamel, M. K., Knowlton, L. M., Jawad, N. K.  
2021; 62: 377–82
  - **The impact of trauma systems on patient outcomes.** *Current problems in surgery*  
Choi, J., Carlos, G., Nassar, A. K., Knowlton, L. M., Spain, D. A.  
2021; 58 (1): 100840
  - **Feasibility and acceptability of virtually coaching residents on communication skills: a pilot study.** *BMC medical education*  
Sasnal, M., Miller-Kuhlmann, R., Merrell, S. B., Beres, S., Kipp, L., Lee, S., Threlkeld, Z., Nassar, A. K., Gold, C. A.  
2021; 21 (1): 513
  - **COVID-19 Impact on Surgical Resident Education and Coping.** *The Journal of surgical research*  
Wise, C. E., Bereknyei Merrell, S. n., Sasnal, M. n., Forrester, J. D., Hawn, M. T., Lau, J. N., Lin, D. T., Schmiederer, I. S., Spain, D. A., Nassar, A. K., Knowlton, L. M.  
2021; 264: 534–43
  - **Situating Artificial Intelligence in Surgery A Focus on Disease Severity** *ANNALS OF SURGERY*  
Korndorffer, J. R., Hawn, M. T., Spain, D. A., Knowlton, L. M., Azagury, D. E., Nassar, A. K., Lau, J. N., Arnow, K. D., Trickey, A. W., Pugh, C. M.  
2020; 272 (3): 523–28
  - **Situating Artificial Intelligence in Surgery: A Focus on Disease Severity.** *Annals of surgery*  
Korndorffer, J. R., Hawn, M. T., Spain, D. A., Knowlton, L. M., Azagury, D. E., Nassar, A. K., Lau, J. N., Arnow, K. D., Trickey, A. W., Pugh, C. M.  
2020; 272 (3): 523-528
  - **Enterocutaneous Fistula: A Simplified Clinical Approach.** *Cureus*  
Tuma, F., Crespi, Z., Wolff, C. J., Daniel, D. T., Nassar, A. K.  
2020; 12 (4): e7789
  - **Enterocutaneous Fistula: A Simplified Clinical Approach** *CUREUS*  
Tuma, F., Crespi, Z., Wolff, C. J., Daniel, D. T., Nassar, A. K.  
2020; 12 (4)
  - **Motivators and Stressors for Canadian Research Coordinators in Critical Care: The MOTIVATE Survey.** *American journal of critical care : an official publication, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses*  
McDonald, E., Zytaruk, N., Heels-Ansdell, D., Smith, O., Borges, D., Hand, L., Clarke, F., Nassar, A., Bennardo, M., Cook, D., Canadian Critical Care Research Coordinators Group  
2020; 29 (1): 41–48
  - **Precautions for Operating Room Team Members during the COVID-19 Pandemic.** *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*  
Forrester, J. D., Nassar, A. K., Maggio, P. M., Hawn, M. T.  
2020
  - **Creation and implementation of a novel clinical workflow based on the AAST uniform anatomic severity grading system for emergency general surgery conditions.** *Trauma surgery & acute care open*  
Bessoff, K. E., Choi, J. n., Bereknyei Merrell, S. n., Nassar, A. K., Spain, D. n., Knowlton, L. M.  
2020; 5 (1): e000552
  - **The impact of trauma systems on patient outcomes** *Current Problems in Surgery*  
Choi, J., Carlos, G., Nassar, A. K., Knowlton, L. M., Spain, D. A.  
2020
  - **Using a virtual platform for personal protective equipment education and training.** *Medical education*

Nassar, A. K., Lin, D. T., Spain, D. A., Knowlton, L. M.  
2020

- **Bedside Optic Nerve Ultrasonography for Diagnosing Increased Intracranial Pressure: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis.** *Annals of internal medicine*  
Koziarz, A., Sne, N., Kegel, F., Nath, S., Badhiwala, J. H., Nassiri, F., Mansouri, A., Yang, K., Zhou, Q., Rice, T., Faidi, S., Passos, E., Healey, et al  
2019
- **Academic Clinicians' Workload Challenges and Burnout Analysis.** *Cureus*  
Nassar, A. K., Waheed, A., Tuma, F.  
2019; 11 (11): e6108
- **Academic Clinicians' Workload Challenges and Burnout Analysis** *CUREUS*  
Nassar, A. K., Waheed, A., Tuma, F.  
2019; 11 (11)
- **Developing an Inpatient Relationship-Centered Communication Curriculum for Surgical Teams: Pilot Study**  
Nassar, A., Weimer-Elder, B., Kline, M., Minthorn, C., Staudenmayer, K. L., Yang, R., Spain, D. A., Maggio, P., Korndorffer, J. R., Johnson, T.  
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2019: E48
- **The MacTRAUMA TTL Assessment Tool: Developing a Novel Tool for Assessing Performance of Trauma Trainees: Initial Reliability Testing** *Journal of Surgical Education*  
Nassar, A., Coates, A., Tuma, F., Farrokhyar, F., Reid, S.  
2016
- **BURNOUT AMONG ACADEMIC CLINICIANS AS IT CORRELATES WITH WORKLOAD AND DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES**  
Nassar, A., McConnell, M.  
macsphere.mcmaster.ca. Canada.  
2015
- **A novel use of high fidelity simulation to test inter-rater reliability of a TTL assessment tool** *Simulation Summit*  
Reid, S., Coates, A., Nassar, A., Farrokhyar, F., Tuma, F., Bhandari, M., Faidi, S.  
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.2014: 56
- **MOTIVATORS AND STRESSORS FOR CANADIAN RESEARCH COORDINATORS IN CRITICAL CARE: THE MOTIVATE SURVEY** *Canadian Critical Care Forum*  
McDonald, E., Zytaruk, N., Borges, D., Bennardo, M., Clarke, F., Heels-Ansdell, D., Hand, L., Meade, M., Nassar, A., Cook, D.  
Canadian Critical Care Forum.2014
- **MOTIVATORS AND STRESSORS FOR CANADIAN RESEARCH COORDINATORS IN CRITICAL CARE: THE MOTIVATE SURVEY** *Canadian Critical Care Forum*  
McDonald, E., Zytaruk, N., Borges, D., Bennardo, M., Clarke, F., Heels-Ansdell, D., Hand, L., Meade, M., Nassar, A., Cook, D.  
Canadian Critical Care Forum.2014
- **The Effect of General Surgery Clerkship Rotation on the Attitude of Medical Students Towards General Surgery as a Future Career** *JOURNAL OF SURGICAL EDUCATION*  
Al-Heeti, K. N., Nassar, A. K., DeCorby, K., Winch, J., Reid, S.  
2012; 69 (4): 544-549
- **Burnout Among Academic Surgeons** *Canadian Surgery Forum*  
Nassar, A. K., Reid, S., Kahnemoui, K., McConnell, M.  
2015: S177
- **Developing a tool to evaluate trauma team leader performance: initial reliability testing.** *The Trauma Association of Canada Annual Scientific Meeting*  
Reid, S., Coates, A., Nassar, A., Farrokhyar, F., Tuma, F., Faidi, S.  
2014: S76
- **The mactrauma TTL assessment tool: developing a novel tool for assessing performance of trauma trainees** *Trauma Association of Canada*  
Reid, S., Coates, C., Nassar, A., Tuma, F., Farrokhyar, F., Faidi, S.  
2013: S13