Stanford



Peter Acker

Clinical Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

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Bio

BIO

Peter Acker is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Acker holds an MD and an MPH from the Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. He completed his emergency medicine training at the University of Chicago, where he served as chief resident. He completed a fellowship in International Emergency Medicine at Stanford University. He currently holds the rank of Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, is a Faculty Fellow with the Center for Innovation in Global Health (CIGH) at Stanford University School of Medicine and serves as the associate director for Stanford Emergency Medicine International.

Dr. Acker's academic work in global health has focused on strengthening health systems, particularly emergency referral systems, to increase access to emergency care for vulnerable populations, including mothers and newborns. He has explored this work in many countries, with a focus on South and Southeast Asia as well as Sub-Saharan Africa, working to improve health facilities' abilities to identify sick patients, coordinate safe and effective transport, and improve the emergency care they receive upon arriving at a definitive care location. He has also worked extensively with the Emergency Management Research Institute Green Health Services (EMRI GHS) ambulance service in India, currently the world's largest prehospital care system, and the Nepal Ambulance Service to increase the quality and reach of prehospital care and effective emergency referral systems in both of these regions. He is currently involved in a number of efforts focused in improving the measurement and effectiveness of emergency referral systems, supporting the revision of the Averting Maternal Death and Disability tool and the creation of emergency maternal referral norms with the WHO.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Emergency Medicine
- Global Health
- Health System Strengthening
- Maternal and Child Health
- Emergency Referral Systems
- Maternal and Obstetric Emergencies
- Medical Education

- Prehospital Emergency Care
- Emergency Ultrasonography

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine
- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Director, Stanford Emergency Medicine International, (2025- present)
- Alternate, Stanford Clinical Assistant Professor Appointments And Promotions Committee, (2024- present)
- Editorial Board Member, The Sri Lanka Journal of Trauma, (2024- present)
- Faculty Mentor, Stanford Department of Emergency Medicine, (2024- present)
- Mentor, Stanford Immersion in Medicine Series, (2023- present)
- Mentor, Stanford Early Clinical Engagement Course, (2022- present)
- Management Committee Member, USAID Health Care Seeking Behavior and Referrals Community of Practice, (2021- present)
- EMED 313A Medical Student Coach, Stanford University School of Medicine, (2020- present)
- Member, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Rural Obstetric Readiness Workgroup, (2020-2021)
- Faculty Senator, Stanford University School of Medicine, (2019- present)
- Affiliated Faculty, Stanford Medicine Center for Asian Health Research and Education, (2018- present)
- Co-Clerkship Director, EMED 313 Emergency Medicine Student Clerkship, (2017-2018)
- Ambassador, Stanford Digital Medic, (2016- present)
- Faculty Fellow, Center for Innovation in Global Health (CIGH) at Stanford University School of Medicine, (2015- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Alwin C. Rambar-James BD Mark Award for Clinical Excellence-Nominee, Stanford University School of Medicine (2025)
- Arnold P Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award-Nominee, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (2025)
- SHC Excellence in Service Award-Nominee, Stanford Health Care Awards (2025)
- SHC Excellence in Service Award-Nominee, Stanford Health Care Awards (2024)
- Bedside Teacher of the Year, Stanford Emergency Medicine Residency (2023)
- James BD Mark Award for Excellence in Patient Care-Nominee, Stanford University School of Medicine (2023)
- MD Program Teaching Award-Nominee, Stanford University School of Medicine (2020)
- Humanitarian Award, American College of Emergency Physicians - California Chapter (2019)
- Outstanding Interdepartmental Faculty Professor, Resident Staff of the Stanford Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (2017-2018)
- Stanford Emergency Medicine Residency Faculty of the Year, Honorable Mention, Stanford Emergency Medicine Residency (2014-2015)
- Chief Resident, Emergency Medicine, University of Chicago Emergency Medicine Residency (2012-2013)
- Emergency Medicine Ambassador Award, University of Chicago Emergency Medicine Residency (2012-2013)
- PGY-3 Resident of the Year, University of Chicago Emergency Medicine Residency (2012-2013)
- Professionalism in Emergency Medicine Award, University of Chicago Emergency Medicine Residency (2012-2013)
- PGY-2 Resident of the Year, University of Chicago Emergency Medicine Residency (2011-2012)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Steering Committee Member, Global Center on Urban Maternal and Perinatal Health (2023 - present)

- Advisor, Project Urban Birth (2022 - present)
- Steering Committee Member, Health Care Seeking and Referrals Community of Practice (2021 - present)
- Member, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Rural Obstetric Readiness Workgroup (2020 - 2021)
- Member, USAID Healthcare Seeking Behaviors and Referrals Community of Practice (2019 - present)
- Fellow, American College of Emergency Physicians (2017 - present)
- Deputy Ambassador to Cambodia, American College of Emergency Physicians (2015 - 2022)
- Technical Advisor for Emergency Medicine and Referrals, USAID Quality Health Services Project-Cambodia (2014 - 2019)
- Member, American College of Emergency Physicians (2010 - present)
- Member, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (2010 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Residency: University of Chicago Hospitals Internal Medicine Residency (2013) IL
- Medical Education: Tufts University School of Medicine (2010) MA
- Masters in Public Health, Tufts University School of Medicine , Public Health and Global Health (2010)
- Fellowship, Stanford University School of Medicine , International Emergency Medicine (2014)
- Board Certification: Emergency Medicine, American Board of Emergency Medicine (2014)

COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL WORK

- Characterizing road traffic injuries and their associated healthcare and financial burdens, Sri Lanka
- Prehospital Maternal Emergency Obstetric Warning Score Development, Tamil Nadu, India
- Improving Newborn and Maternal Outcomes by Strengthening Emergency Care Gujarat, Gujarat, India
- Assessing and Strengthening the Indian Neonatal Care and Referral System, Gujarat, India
- Diploma Course in Emergency Medicine, Yangon, Myanmar
- Digital Medic Emergency Medicine Content Development, India, South Africa, Philippines, Rwanda and others
- Medical student curriculum development in Emergency Medicine, Uganda
- Prehospital Care Guideline Development and Dissemination, Nepal
- Prehospital Care Provide Mobile Application Decision Aid Creation, Nepal
- Emergency Medicine Education and Development, Myanmar
- 2014 Nepal Ambulance Service EMT Refresher Training, Nepal
- 2014 VPOL Course: Managing Emergencies: What Every Doctor Needs to Know, Uganda
- 2013-2016 Stanford Essential Prehospital Care Course, India
- 2014-2019 USAID Quality Health Services Project, Cambodia

LINKS

- Stanford Emergency Medicine Fellowship: http://emed.stanford.edu/fellowships/international.html
- Institute for the Development of International Emergency Medicine: http://idiem.org
- Care seeking and referral community of practice: https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres/march-centre/care-seeking-and-referral

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

My research and work focus on optimizing the use of health system data to create intelligent and accurate emergency referral systems to ensure vulnerable populations receive the care they require as efficiently as possible. I am interested in increasing our understanding of currently available health infrastructure in resource limited settings, and pairing that knowledge with technology tools to help identify patient's true needs and match those needs with health system capacity in real-time.

PROJECTS

- USAID Quality Health Servlces project in Cambodia - Stanford University, University Research Consortium (8/1/2013 - present)
- Stanford Essential Prehospital Care Course - Stanford University, University Research Consortium
- Prehospital Care Provider Training and Mobile Decision Aid Application Creation
- Saving Mother's and Infant's Lives via Emergency Care (SMILE) - Stanford University Department of Emergency Medicine and GVK Emergency Research and Management Institute, India (8/15/2019)
- Prehospital Maternal Emergency Obstetric Warning Score Development - Stanford University Department of Emergency Medicine (June 1, 2021 - present)

Teaching

STANFORD ADVISEES

Med Scholar Project Advisor

Owen Ramberg

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Road traffic injuries in Kandy District, Sri Lanka: a prospective analysis of trauma and disability at a tertiary care center.** *International journal of emergency medicine*
  Ramberg, O., Acker, P., Gu, B., Weng, I. Y., Pritchard, A., Smith, M., Batchelor, T., Lanter, P., Selvaratnam, N., Dharmaratne, S.
  2026; 19 (1)
- **Evaluating Sri Lanka's road traffic crash and injury research: a systematic review focusing on data sources and methodological approaches** *European Journal of Public Health Studies*
  Selvaratnam , N. C., Selvaratnam , N. D., Lanter, P., Dharmaratne, S. D., Acker, P. C.
  2025
- **Evaluation of a massive open online course for just-in-time training of healthcare workers.** *Frontiers in public health*
  Strehlow, M. C., Johnston, J. S., Aluri, K. Z., Prober, C. G., Acker, P. C., Patil, A. S., Mahadevan, A., Mahadevan, S. V.
  2024; 12: 1395931
- **Spontaneous coronary artery dissection: An uncommon cause of cardiac arrest in the young.** *Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians open*
  Starrs, M., Acker, P.
  2023; 4 (4): e13000
- **Paediatric use of emergency medical services in India: A retrospective cohort study of one million children.** *Journal of global health*
  Newberry, J. A., Rao, S. J., Matheson, L., Anurudran, A. S., Acker, P., Darmstadt, G. L., Mahadevan, S. V., Rao, G. V., Strehlow, M.
  2022; 12: 04080
- **A qualitative study of an undergraduate online emergency medicine education program at a teaching Hospital in Kampala, Uganda.** *BMC medical education*
  Ayoola, A. S., Acker, P. C., Kalanzi, J., Strehlow, M. C., Becker, J. U., Newberry, J. A.

2022; 22 (1): 84

- **When Stirrups Aren't Available: Product Evaluation of a Novel Low- Cost Pelvic Lift Cushion** *Human Factors in Healthcare*
  Toney-Noland, C., Acker, P. C., Padua, K., Crowe, S., Sie, L., Lee, H., et al
  2022; 2
- **Developing Emergency Triage Systems in Cambodia.** *Cureus*
  Khan, A., Rice, B., Acker, P.
  2020; 12 (10): e11233
- **Strengthening the Emergency Referral System in Cambodia for Women and Children Under Five: A Description of Interventions and Impact Analysis.** *Journal of Global Health Reports*
  Acker, P. C.
  2020
- **Continuing Education for Prehospital Healthcare Providers in India - A Novel Course and Concept.** *Open access emergency medicine : OAEM*
  Lindquist, B. D., Koval, K. W., Acker, P. C., Bills, C. B., Khan, A. n., Zachariah, S. n., Newberry, J. A., Rao, G. V., Mahadevan, S. V., Strehlow, M. C.
  2020; 12: 201–10
- **Comparing Teaching Methods in Resource-Limited Countries.** *AEM education and training*
  Mahadevan, S. V., Walker, R., Kalanzi, J., Stone, L. T., Bills, C., Acker, P., Apfeld, J. C., Newberry, J., Becker, J., Mantha, A., Tecklenburg Strehlow, A. N., Strehlow, M. C.
  2018; 2 (3): 238
- **Comparing Teaching Methods in Resource-Limited Countries** *AEM EDUCATION AND TRAINING*
  Mahadevan, S. V., Walker, R., Kalanzi, J., Stone, L., Bills, C., Acker, P., Apfeld, J. C., Newberry, J., Becker, J., Mantha, A., Strehlow, A., Strehlow, M. C.
  2018; 2 (3): 238
- **Anaphylaxis** *Progressive Cases in Emergency Medicine*
  Acker, P. C., Lindberg, P., Pillow, T., Ahn, J.
  McGraw-Hill Education.2018; 1
- **Comparison of Online and Classroom-based Formats for Teaching Emergency Medicine to Medical Students in Uganda.** *AEM education and training*
  Mahadevan, S. V., Walker, R., Kalanzi, J., Stone, L. T., Bills, C., Acker, P., Apfeld, J. C., Newberry, J., Becker, J., Mantha, A., Tecklenburg Strehlow, A. N., Strehlow, M. C.
  2018; 2 (1): 5-9
- **Procedural Sedation in Resource Limited Settings** *Critical Decisions in Emergency Medicine*
  Acker, P. C., Koval, K., Leeper, S.
  2017; 31 (4): 3-13
- **Implementing an Innovative Prehospital Care Provider Training Course in Nine Cambodian Provinces** *Cureus*
  Acker, P. C.
  2016; 8 (6)
- **Efficacy of a novel two-day EMT refresher training program focused on essential EMS knowledge and skills** *International Summit on Emergency Medicine and Trauma*
  Acker, P. C.
  2014

PRESENTATIONS

- Training of EMT Trainers Workshop: Module 3, Obstetric Emergencies - GVK EMRI (1/2015 - 1/2015)
- 1-Day Symposium on Emergency Medicine - University of Medicine Mandalay (1/2015 - 1/2015)
- Anaphylaxis-Life Saving Strategies - Myanmar Medical Association Annual Meeting (1/2015 - 1/2015)
- Training of Trainers: Cambodia EMS Modular Curriculum Block 1 - Master EMS Trainers (11/2014 - 11/2014)

- Procedural Ultrasound Skills - Stanford Ultrafest Course (10/2014 - 10/2014)
- Hypertensive Emergencies in Pregnancy - Tanda Medical College Faculty (9/2014 - 9/2014)
- Training of EMT Trainers Workshop: Module 2, Medical and Cardiovascular Emergencies (9/2014 - 9/2014)
- What Every Doctor Must Know - Makerere University Medical Students (8/2014 - 8/2014)
- Efficacy of a Novel Two-Day EMT Refresher Training Program Focused on Essential EMS Knowledge and Skills - Western Regional SAEM Conference (3/2014 - 3/2014)
- One-Day Symposium on an Introduction to Emergency - University of Medicine Yangon (2/2014 - 2/2014)
- Difficult Airway Algorithms - International Summit on Emergency Medicine and Trauma (2/2014 - 2/2014)
- IVC Ultrasonography - International Summit on Emergency Medicine and Trauma (2/2014 - 2/2014)
- What's New in Anaphylaxis - International Summit on Emergency Medicine and Trauma (2/2014 - 2/2014)
- Evidence Based Medicine in Clinical Practice - Society for Emergency Medicine India/EMCON (11/2013 - 11/1/2013)
- Training of EMT Trainers Workshop: Module 1, Basic EMT Skills - GVK EMRI (11/2013 - 11/2013)
- Global Health Ethics and Opportunities - Stanford Emergency Medicine Residency (12/2013 - 12/2013)
- Anaphyaxis - Stanford University School of Medicine
- Fever in the Returning Traveler - Stanford University School of Medicine
- Basic and Advanced Airway Strategies-Critical Nursing Skills - Stanford Hospital Center Emergency Nurses
- Comparing the Efficacy of Video Versus Live Delivery of an EMT Training Course in India - EMCON-Annual Conference of Society of Emergency Medicine India (11/22/2015)
- Comparing the Efficacy of Video Versus Live Delivery of an EMT Training Course in India - International Conference on Emergency Medicine, International Federation for Emergency Medicine (April 16, 2016)
- Sick Travelers: A Practical Guide - EMED 223: Stanford Wilderness Medicine Course (5/18/2017)
- Realizing the Potential of Emergency Medicine - Military Hospital 175 Combined Orthopedics/Trauma/Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds (4/26/2017)
- High Quality Neonatal Resuscitation - Vietnamese Society for Emergency Medicine Conference on Emergency Medicine (4/22/2017)
- Cardiovascular Monitoring During Resuscitation - Vietnamese Society for Emergency Medicine Conference on Emergency Medicine (4/22/2017)
- Hypertensive Disorders in Pregnancy - Diploma Course in Emergency Medicine (1/25/2017)
- Postpartum Hemorrhage - Nepal Ambulance Service EMT Refresher Training Program (December 15, 2016)
- Postpartum Hemorrhage in the Resource Limited Setting - ACEP 2017
- Ultrasound in the Assessment of the Undifferentiated Patient in Resource Limited Settings - ACEP 2018
- Bleeding Tricks for Tricky Bleeds - Stanford Symposium on Emergency Medicine 2018
- In-flight Emergencies - Stanford Symposium on Emergency Medicine 2018
- Maternal Cardiac Arrest and Airway Management - Evidence Based Perinatal Care Symposium (1/10/2020)
- Challenges and Solutions in Maternal Referrals - Evidence Based Perinatal Care Symposium (1/11/2020)
- EMRI GHS Maternal and Newborn Transport and Referral Experience in India - International Maternal and Newborn Health Conference (5/11/2023)
- Hematologic Emergencies - GVK EMRI Paramedic Training Course (3/1/2021 - 3/2/2021)