



## 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**

Sharly Lembkey - Administrative Associate

**Email** [slembkey@stanford.edu](mailto:slembkey@stanford.edu)

### Bio

---

#### BIO

Dr. Nassar holds board certifications in both General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care across the United States and Canada, demonstrating his unparalleled expertise in the field. Having obtained a Master of Science in Health Science Education from McMaster University in Canada, Dr. Nassar boasts an impressive educational background.

Currently, he serves as the director of the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Program at Stanford University and is also the founder and director of the Surgery Resident Coaching Program. With over 12 years of clinical academic experience in top-tier tertiary care referral academic health centers throughout North America, Dr. Nassar's wealth of knowledge is truly remarkable.

His clinical passions encompass trauma, acute care surgery, critical care, and a specialized focus on abdominal wall reconstruction. As a dedicated clinician-educator, Dr. Nassar is a certified simulation educator and ATLS and ASSET course director. His research pursuits primarily revolve around the enhancement of surgical education, with a particular emphasis on the acquisition of non-technical skills in surgical training programs.

Dr. Nassar is committed to developing innovative assessment tools for trainees and investigating burnout among physicians and other healthcare professionals. With a strong presence both nationally and internationally, his influence in the realm of surgical education continues to grow and shape the future of healthcare.

#### 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

- 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 DeGroote School of Medicine Registrar (2012) Canada
- Residency: McMaster University Michael G DeGroote 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

- **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
- **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., Berekyei 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*  
Bessoiff, 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
- **BURNOUT AMONG CRITICAL CARE WORKERS** *Canadian Critical Care Forum*  
Nassar, A., Meade, M., Reid, S., Kahnamoui, K., Karachi, T., Sawchuk, C., 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., Kahnamoui, 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