

STEVAN BRUIJNS



I have been a qualified emergency physician since 2008 and was one of the first doctors to hold a degree in Emergency Medicine in South Africa. I am dual registered as a specialist in South Africa and the United Kingdom.

My interests include quality improvement, as well as social equality and research access in African low-resourced settings. This has formed the basis of many service improvement projects I have led, notable designing the South African Triage Scale, work on research equity and work during the pandemic.

I am a person of action and like for things I do to be useful to others. This is strongly reflected in my outputs. I have a strong sense of purpose that greatly influences my desire to improve the world around me.

I have worked in both resource-rich and resource-poor settings. I have used this experience to shape my worldview which is best described in several of my blogs: see <https://stevanbruijns.weebly.com/>.

I make a point to support young and inexperienced authors and colleagues. Providing mentorship to build capacity in global health is a task I am most passionate about.

I am married and we have two children which we home school. We also have one kitten and four very naughty chickens that like to raid the vegetable patch.

Favourite quotes...

There is no limit to what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit. Ronald Reagan

If you're not prepared to be wrong, you'll never come up with anything original. Ken Robinson

It always seems impossible until it is done. Nelson Mandela

CONTACT

WEBSITE:

<https://stevanbruijns.weebly.com/>

EMAIL:

stevan.bruijns@gmail.com

@HOME

QUALIFICATIONS

University of Cape Town

PhD – December 2013

MPhil – December 2006 (Cum laude)

Royal College of Emergency Medicine

FRCEM – June 2013

Colleges of Medicine of South Africa

DipPEC – October 2001

Pretoria University

MBChB – December 1999

REGISTRATIONS

General Medical Council (UK)

Specialist Register Emergency Medicine – July 2011

Health Professions Council of South Africa

Specialist Register Emergency Medicine – May 2008

Registered for independent practice – January 2002

Registered for community service – January 2001

Registered for internship – January 2000

WORK EXPERIENCE

Care Quality Commission

UEC specialty advisor

December 2021 until current

Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Global Emergency Medicine committee

Member

November 2018 until November 2021

Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Yeovil, UK

Consultant emergency physician

January 2018 until current

African Journal of Emergency Medicine, Cape Town, SA

Editor-in-Chief

January 2011 until current

University of Cape Town, Division of Emergency Medicine, Cape Town, SA

Honorary associate professor

January 2018 until current

Associate professor

November 2017 until December 2017

Senior lecturer

July 2014 until October 2017

Honorary lecturer/ Executive committee (ex officio)

January 2005 until June 2014

Khayelitsha Hospital, Cape Town, SA

Consultant emergency physician

July 2014 until December 2017

Plymouth Hospitals NHS trust, Plymouth, UK

Consultant emergency physician
November 2011 until June 2014

Associate Specialist Emergency Medicine
February 2008 until October 2011

Staff Grade Emergency Medicine
July 2006 until January 2008

Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS trust, UK

Locum staff grade Emergency Medicine
October 2005 until May 2006
August 2005 until September 2005

GF Jooste Hospital, Cape Town, SA

Principal Medical Officer and Head Emergency Department
January 2004 until June 2005

Community service Medical Officer Emergency Medicine
January 2001 until December 2001

Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, SA

Senior Medical Officer: Emergency medicine, Cardiology, Cardiac ICU,
Respiratory unit and Respiratory ICU
July 2002 until December 2003

Victoria Hospital, Cape Town, SA

Senior Medical Officer Emergency Medicine
January 2002 until June 2002

Cecelia Makiwane Hospital, East London, SA

Intern: Paediatrics, Obstetrics, Surgery, Anaesthetics and Orthopaedics
January 2000 until December 2000

RESEARCH

85% of my research is free to read online. This level of availability puts me in the top 2% of researchers.

My research has been saved and shared in 36 countries. That's high: only 17% of researchers get that much international attention.

Of people who save and share my research, 55% are in the Global South. That's a high proportion: only 3% of researchers publish work that inspires this level of engagement from the developing world.

I make a point to publish with young and inexperienced authors, from low resourced backgrounds.

Peer-reviewed publications

I have extensively published; mainly around African emergency care topics. See: [Google Scholar profile](#) and [Scopus Author profile](#)

Books and chapters in books

Provided on request

Peer-reviewed conference presentations

Provided on request

Other contributions/ reports

Provided on request

It is worth noting that these documents were the first ultrasound curriculum for South African emergency care.

1. Blogposts on [St Emlyns](#)
2. Blogposts on [the Conversation](#)
3. Blogposts on [BadEM](#)

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Clinical service lead and work during the pandemic

Probably best summarised in this BMJ article:
<https://www.bmj.com/content/372/bmj.n539>

Member – Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Global Emergency Medicine committee

I provide operational support for the committee's social media presence. I have led two successful conference plenaries on behalf of the committee at EuSEM in 2018 and the RCEM's annual scientific conference in 2019.

Editor-in-chief – African Journal of Emergency Medicine

(see <http://www.afjem.com/>)

Day to day editing, allocation and management of the workflow (editors and reviewers), issue planning, copy-editing, advertising and issue compilation.

My aim has been focussed on achieving indexing with the Department of Higher Education and Technology, Medline (PubMed) and the Science Citation Index (impact factor). This required a focus on the qualitative and quantitative growth of the journal.

The African Journal of Emergency Medicine is currently the only emergency care text from Africa. It outpaces other, stronger international journals on publishing African emergency care content; it published 20% of all African emergency care outputs of the last five years, with 46 other journals having published the rest. Qualitative and quantitative indices have grown substantially, and the African Journal of Emergency Medicine is currently a second quartile journal on international rankings.

Although a large proportion of our authors are non-African, this demographic is shifting towards greater African representation. I have moved towards stronger African representation on the editorial board as well. Through careful negotiation with our society, the African Federation for Emergency Medicine and the publisher we have managed to maintain a hybrid open access journal (free to access, free to publish). This not only helped provide access for an African audience but also for African researchers.

Support a delegate (Supadel)

Supadel (or support a delegate) is a unique African Federation for Emergency Medicine initiative that I founded and led for nine years. It sponsors the attendance of delegates from low and middle-income countries at regional AFEM-affiliated conferences. It has been operational since 2009. In this time has allowed numerous Emergency Care providers without the financial means, to attend high-quality acute care conferences throughout the continent. It operates on a peer-to-peer sponsorship model: conference delegates or other donors financially support their peers from African low- and middle-income countries, either by adding a sponsorship (usually as a proportion of their registration fee) to their conference registration fee or by donating securely online through one of two crowdfunding sites.

Many Supadel alumni have used this opportunity to increase their involvement in African emergency care; two joined the executive board of the African Federation for Emergency Medicine this year. A large portion of the African emergency medicine trainees at UCT are Supadel alumni.

You can read more about Supadel, peruse the many comments from alumni or make a donation here: <https://afem.africa/project/support-a-delegate-supadel/>. I am exceptionally proud of this initiative.

Author Assist

Author Assist is a publication mentorship service for novice authors from low and middle-income countries that I found in my role as editor-in-chief of the African Journal of Emergency Medicine. It is the aim of the African Journal of Emergency Medicine to be representative of all parts of the African continent. I recognised fairly early in the journal's journey that many African emergency care researchers are disadvantaged in the available range of journals into which they can publish as well as lack the skills to present their research in an acceptable scientific format that deserves publication. So I devised Author Assist: following the rejection of interesting but poorly written manuscripts, AfJEM uses a team of experienced volunteers (Author Assistants) to help mentor and improve the quality of manuscripts before peer-review submission.

Users of Author Assist are mainly black African researchers from elsewhere in Africa. The vast majority of resubmitted papers go on to be published- reversing 1 in every 4 reject decisions. I am proud to say that one Author Assist alumni is now an editor of the journal and another has recently published in one of the top three journals in emergency medicine.

Author Assist uplifts disadvantaged, novice, African authors and provide them with the confidence to publish. See: <http://www.afjem.com/author-assist.html>. I am exceptionally proud of this initiative.

South African Triage Scale (SATS)

I never expected to derive a triage tool with such a global impact back in 2004. I wasn't much of a researcher either. I just wanted to stop finding patients dead before they were seen. I called it the GF Jooste Triage Scale (GF Jooste was the hospital I worked at when I came up with the idea). I was linked up with a group attempting to derive a triage scale for local use by Prof Vanessa Burch. The rest is history; the Cape Triage Group was formed and the GF Jooste Triage Scale was chosen as the basis for the Cape Triage Scale which later became the South African Triage Scale. The masters thesis I wrote on the tool was awarded a distinction and I also first-authored the first internal validation papers.

The tool has been thoroughly researched since and has been the topic of two PhDs, a number of masters projects and over a dozen research publications. The South African Triage Scale is currently in use in a number of settings, including South Africa, Ghana, Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Somalia, Sierra Leone and Uganda. It was also rolled out at an MSF site in Pakistan in 2014, and has since been adopted as the preferred triage scale for MSF's operational use. The SATS training was rolled out in Fiji in 2016, adapted to a three-tier scale for use in the Solomon Islands in 2017. In Europe an adapted version of SATS is used in Norway and Sweden. The World Health Organization's triage tool, currently being externally validated at various sites, are derived from the SATS as well.

See <http://stevanbruijns.weebly.com/triage.html> for links and further information. I am exceptionally proud of this initiative.

HONOURS, AWARDS, PRIZES AND NOMINATIONS

William Rutherford International Award 2020

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) presents this annual award to an individual who has displayed evidence of excellence in emergency care or humanitarian activities within low- or middle-income countries.

- I received this award for work in African emergency care activities and research over two decades.

Research Award of the Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa 2017

The Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa represents a group of enthusiastic healthcare professionals dedicated to the development of quality emergency care throughout South Africa. Its objectives are to develop and promote emergency care through teaching, training and education; to promote the speciality of emergency medicine; to advocate for emergency care in South Africa; and to lobby on behalf of members of the Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa for the promotion of and maintenance of the profession.

- I was awarded the award for my involvement with national and regional emergency care research promotion as editor-in-chief for the African Journal of Emergency Medicine and senior lecturer at the Division of Emergency Medicine, University of Cape Town

Best poster award, Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa conference 2017

- Bruijns SR, Maesela M, Sinha S and Banner ME. Poor local access to African emergency care publications without publisher subscription, a cross-sectional study. F1000Research 2017, 6:1784 (poster) (doi: 10.7490/f1000research.1114939.1)

Membership of the Order of St. Lazarus (Jul 2010)

The Order of Saint Lazarus is one of the most ancient of the European orders of chivalry. At the very least it dates back to the time of the Crusader knights. It is both a Military Order of Mercy and a Hospitaller Order dedicated to the care and assistance of the poor and the sick. Its aim is to guard, assist, succour and help the poor, the sick and dying.

- I was awarded membership for the following services: Supadel project lead (see 6.2) and compiling a state of Macedonian Acute Care Facilities report in 2007 for a UK charity (Running on wheels) to allow sourcing of appropriate medical equipment for use in these acute care services.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2019 | RCEM, annual scientific conference, Newcastle, England
Plenary co-coordinator: global emergency medicine plenary |
| 2019 | European Society for Emergency Medicine, Prague, Czech
Plenary co-coordinator: global emergency medicine plenary |
| 2019 | Global Emergency Care Conference, Melbourne, Australia
Global health knowledge translation in a digital age |
| 2018 | European Society for Emergency Medicine, Glasgow, Scotland
Plenary coordinator: global emergency medicine plenary |
| 2017 | Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa, Sun City
What is more important than gold- reference standards |
| 2016 | Emergency Care Society of South Africa conference
Critical thinking |
| 2016 | Brave African Discussions in Emergency Medicine symposium
End of life care ≠ end of health care |

- 2016 African Conference on Emergency Medicine, Cairo, Egypt
How to get your emergency medicine research published
- 2016 European Society for Emergency Medicine, Vienna, Austria
Diary of a wimpy journal - lessons from navigating publication
- 2016 International Conference on Emergency Medicine, Cape Town
Conducting emergency care research in low resource settings
- 2016 Swedish Society for Emergency Medicine Conference, Sweden
Starting a journal in a research naive setting
Research with limited resources, there is an app for that
Innovations in emergency medicine in South Africa
- 2015 World Congress Disaster & Emergency Medicine, Cape Town
Research, resourcefulness and resources
- 2015 Global Health Conference, Botswana
Research, resourcefulness and resources
- 2013 Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa conference
Cutting edge clinical conundrums (session chair)
Trauma in the elderly
Emergency thoracotomy (session chair)
- 2011 Emergency Medicine in the Developing World Conference,
Trauma plenary (session chair)
The point of an African EM Journal
Publishing in the African Journal of Emergency Medicine
- 2009 Emergency Medicine in the Developing World Conference,
Levels of evidence
Emergency Ultrasound: Interactive debate (session chair)

CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP ORGANISING/ INVOLVEMENT

Conferences

I have served on the local organising committee of the following conferences. Duties included general planning and to a large extent fundraising to provide access to underprivileged delegates from lower-middle or low-income African states.

The conferences are:

- 2018 African Conference on Emergency Medicine, Kigali, Rwanda
- 2017 Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa conference, Sun City
- 2016 African Conference on Emergency Medicine, Cairo Egypt
- 2016 International Conference on Emergency Medicine, Cape Town
- 2015 World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine, Cape Town
- 2014 African Conference on Emergency Medicine, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 2013 Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa conference, Cape Town
- 2012 African Conference on Emergency Medicine, Accra, Ghana
- 2011 Emergency Medicine in the Developing World Conference, Cape Town
- 2009 Emergency Medicine in the Developing World Conference, Cape Town
- 2007 Emergency Medicine in the Developing World Conference, Cape Town

Workshops

- Research workshop, African Conference on Emergency Medicine, Cairo, Egypt, 2016
- Research workshop, International Conference on Emergency Medicine, Cape Town, South Africa, 2016
- Research workshop, Swedish Society for Emergency Medicine Conference, Sweden, 2016

- Elsevier author workshop, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, 2015
- ECG workshop, African Conference on Emergency Medicine, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2014
- Research workshop: Publish or perish, Emergency Care Society of South Africa conference, Maropeng, South Africa, 2014

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

I make a point to supervise young and inexperienced authors, from low resourced backgrounds

(PhDs in bold)

1. Vanessa Naidoo. Describing the most common presenting complaints, their priority and corresponding diagnoses at Mitchells Plain Emergency Centre (MPhil) – 2019
2. Vanessa Naidoo. Describing the most common presenting complaints, their priority and corresponding diagnoses at Khayelitsha Emergency Centre (MMed) – 2019
3. Ushira Ganas. Descriptive Study of the current use of focused emergency cardiac ultrasound at District Level Hospital Emergency Centres in the Western Cape (MMed) – 2019
4. Marlin Abrams. Publication rates of abstracts presented at the 1st and 2nd African Conference of Emergency Medicine (MMed) – 2018
5. Murad Al Hamzy. A descriptive study of access to the 500 most cited emergency medicine papers from the last 5 years (MMed) - 2019
6. **Simpiwe Sobuwa. A critical realist study into the emergence and absence of academic success among students enrolled for the Bachelor of Emergency Medical Care in South Africa (PhD) - 2018**
7. Heinrich Weeber. Estimated trauma-associated blood loss versus availability of emergency blood products at a district-level public hospital in Cape Town (MSc) – *submitted for publication/ poster presentation - 2018
8. Ramadhan Chunga (Tanzania). Describing and comparing the availability of acute care resources to treat new onset stroke in different income settings: a self-reported survey of acute care providers at the 2016 International Conference on Emergency Medicine (MMed) – *poster presentation – 2018
9. Crispin Kibamba (DRC). A Retrospective, Descriptive Study of ECG Patterns and Survival to Discharge of Patients Thrombolysed for ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction at a Provincial level-Public Hospital in Cape Town (MMed) – 2017
10. Kirsty Cohen. Patient waiting times within public Emergency Centres in the Western Cape: describing key performance indicators with respect to waiting times within Western Cape Emergency Centres in 2013-2014 (MPhil) – 2017 *submitted for publication/ poster presentation
11. David Morris. Utilisation of emergency blood in a cohort of emergency centres in Cape Town, South Africa (MMed) – 2017 *submitted for publication/ poster presentation
12. Sian Geraty. Adverse event registry analysis of an EMS system in a low resource setting: a descriptive study (MMed) – 2017 *submitted for publication/ poster presentation
13. Diulu Kabongo (DRC). Describing final diagnosis and outcome for patients investigated for suspected acute coronary syndrome at a regional, public South African emergency centre (MMed) – 2017 *submitted for publication/ poster presentation
14. Jacobus Wiese. Poor adherence to Tranexamic acid guidelines for adult, injured patients presenting to a district, public, South African hospital (MMed) – 2017 *distinction/ published/ poster presentation

15. Emmanuel Ahiable (Ghana). Describing the Categories of People that Contribute to an Emergency Centre Crowd at Khayelitsha Hospital, Western Cape, South Africa (MSc) – 2017 *published/poster presentation
16. Yaseen Khan, Comparative, cross-sectional study describing agreement and accuracy of emergency centre triage using either a mobile application or manual triage (MMedSci) – 2016
17. Megan Banner. Exploring the factors underlying successful publication after participation in an Author Assist service (MSc) – 2016
18. **Enrico Dippenaar. An investigation into the development, validation and implementation of a modified triage system specific to Mediclinic Middle East (PhD) – 2016**
19. Rob Kalebka. A survey of attitudes towards patient substance abuse and addiction in the Emergency Centre (MMed) – 2013 *published
20. **Andrew Makkink. A study of emergency centre staff and prehospital provider opinions on current handover practices within the greater Johannesburg area (PhD) – in progress**
21. **Abdelmonim Abdelrahman (Sudan). Evaluation of the use of Social Media in facility-based emergency care in low-resource settings (PhD) – in progress**
22. Melisandre Goncalves. Evaluation of the management of closed fractures of forearm and wrist in the emergency centre of a public district hospital (MPhil) – in progress

EXTERNAL EXAMINING

Undergraduate

College of Medicine, University of Malawi, Blantyre, Malawi (for three years)

Examined 24-27 May 2016 and 23-26 May 2017

Postgraduate

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (exit exam emergency medicine trainees)

Examined 4-8 September 2016, 28-31 Augustus 2017 and 28-31 September 2018.

REFERENCES

Provided on request