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# Editorial: Advancements and challenges in emergency health services

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## Editorial on the Research Topic

### Advancements and challenges in emergency health services

Emergency Medicine (EM) began in the 1970's as a field dedicated to improving acute care for patients across a wide spectrum of health conditions. Initially met with skepticism from some in the medical community who viewed it as an unnecessary addition to established specialties, EM has since grown into a recognized and essential global specialty. It now provides care across diverse settings and environments, including at accident scenes, during transport to hospitals, and within Emergency Departments (ED).

While models of care provision vary across health systems and geographic locations, the principles guiding emergency medical care are unified: continuous and easy access to pre-hospital services, rapid transport to definitive care, and competent and compassionate care within EDs. A seamless integration of pre-hospital services and hospital-based care is essential to creating a continuum of care that extends from the moment of the emergency to the patients' full recovery.

Another foundational aspect of EM is its commitment to growing and expanding the field as knowledge and technology improve and adapting to new perspectives on how, when, and by whom emergency care is provided. This commitment is evident in incorporating the latest scientific advancements and technological innovations into emergency medical practices. Additionally, EM provides affordable care and minimizes healthcare access disparities among individuals affected by various Social Determinants of Health. These commitments are crucial for ensuring that emergency medical services remain at the forefront of healthcare delivery, providing timely and effective interventions. The goal of this Research Topic, *Advancements and challenges in emergency health services*, is to highlight some of the many ways the field continues to develop.

Wang L. et al. explored potential limitations in the current organizational and operational facets of Emergency Medical Teams in China. Through surveys of team leaders, they identified several potential areas of weakness, including weak internal stability, unclear management structure, and inadequate support within the existing system. This paper highlights the numerous challenges in designing systems that provide emergency medical services to large populations across large geographic areas, often with limited resources.

Wang A.-Q. et al. addressed an important but often overlooked aspect of emergency care—mental wellbeing and career resilience in emergency medical personnel.

Using qualitative survey methods, they developed a career resilience instrument specifically for emergency responders in China. This study highlights the importance of, and the challenges to, maintaining emotionally healthy and engaged emergency health workers.

Emergency Medicine and organized pre-hospital emergency services are spreading globally, but challenges persist, particularly in developing countries or regions with limited resources. Beyera et al. found that the lack of ambulance services was the factor most strongly associated with fatalities in traffic accidents in the South West Shewa Zone of Ethiopia. Although this study utilized data from a single hospital, it highlights the critical nature of structured Emergency Medical Services and the urgent need for resource allocation to develop such systems. This finding reveals disparities in Emergency Medical Service infrastructure between developed and developing regions, emphasizing the necessity for international support and collaboration.

Finally, the papers by Gao et al. and Ehrman et al. emphasize the important contribution that epidemiologic and social factors play in the provision of emergency care. Gao et al. identified factors associated with poor healing in pediatric wounds. Such data are useful for informing parents or caregivers and planning for post-ED follow-up. Ehrman et al. identified limitations in the existing literature on how Social Determinants of Health affect outcomes for patients with sepsis. Both papers remind readers that patient-level and environmental factors can influence what happens to patients before they arrive in the ED and can also affect post-discharge outcomes.

Since its inception more than 50-years ago, the core aspects of Emergency Medicine have remained unchanged—a commitment to providing acute medical care to all patients, regardless of condition or time. However, many aspects of the world have

undergone significant changes during this time, and the specialty has grown and evolved considerably to meet new challenges while maintaining its core principles. As demonstrated by the papers in this Research Topic, researchers in Emergency Medicine are dedicated to developing innovative solutions and meeting the needs of the modern healthcare environment.

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