

Simon A. Mahler, MD, MS

Simon A. Mahler is an associate professor of Emergency Medicine at Wake Forest Baptist Health, Winston Salem, North Carolina. He oversees clinical research for the Department of Emergency Medicine and holds a leadership position within the Wake Forest School of Medicine Critical Illness and Injury Recovery and Research Center (CIIRRC). In these roles he works to cultivate multidisciplinary and translational research spanning the full spectrum of medical care (from pre-, in-, and post-hospital environments).

Dr. Mahler has received national recognition for the delivery of innovative methods to improve care for patients presenting to the Emergency Department with acute chest pain. As the principal investigator of a project funded by the Donaghue Foundation, Dr. Mahler is leading a multidisciplinary and inter-professional team, in the implementation of an evidence-based care pathway (HEART Pathway) for patients with acute chest pain across the Wake Forest Baptist Health System. This project is the vanguard for a learning health system and aims to bridge the gaps between research, education, and health system operations to more effectively and efficiently provide patient care. This project leverages electronic medical records (EMR) for clinical decision support and outcome surveillance and links EMR data with insurers' claims data. Early success of this ongoing project is already leading to dissemination of the HEART Pathway to other medical centers and additional care settings.

Dr. Mahler has also served as the lead or co-investigator for several cardiovascular trials, including American Heart Association and National Institutes of Health funded studies investigating care pathways for patients at risk for acute coronary syndrome. In addition, he is part of a multidisciplinary team developing the Carolinas Collaborative, a data-sharing network which is supported by funds from the Duke Endowment. When complete the Carolinas Collaborative will provide investigators with access to key data elements from patients receiving care at Health Sciences South Carolina, Wake Forest Baptist Health, University of North Carolina Health Care, and Duke University Health System. He has also partnered with industry (Seimens Healthcare Diagnostics, Roche Diagnostics, and Abbott Laboratories) to investigate biomarkers designed to detect acute coronary syndrome in patients with acute chest pain.

Originally trained as an emergency physician, Dr. Mahler completed a Master of Science in Clinical and Population Translational Sciences at Wake Forest University and a mentored research program in Quality Care and Outcomes Research in Cardiovascular Disease (a T32 fellowship sponsored by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute). Through these experiences, Dr. Mahler has developed expertise in the delivery of high-quality and high-value cardiovascular care, with a particular interest in improving the risk stratification and care of patients with acute chest pain.