



September 2024 News & Updates

Announcements & Upcoming Events

AMETHIST@Penn Welcomes New Project Manager (Design & Policy Cores)



Shelby Billups serves as the Project Manager for the Design and Policy Cores of AMETHIST@Penn and the Implementation Science Institute at PISCE. Prior to her work at Penn, she served as a Manager of Research Facilitation and Experience at the education research non-profit, Character Lab. Her passion for research stems from its potential to make meaningful real-world impacts. This passion was a major inspiration for her undergraduate work in race, gender, and language perception at Swarthmore College and what led

her to the work Penn. She's thrilled to support the incredible team and impactful work of AMETHIST and PISCE.

We are excited to welcome you to the team, Shelby!

Upcoming Virtual Seminars: *Connecting, Collaborating and Contributing for Change: Parts 1 & 2*

Patient storytelling is a powerful tool in facilitating meaningful communication between patients, clinicians, and providers. How can we help patients see the power of telling their stories and provide them with the space and tools to do so? In this seminar hosted by patient co-investigator Debora Grandison, you will learn about the impact of patient storytelling, how to identify patients who want to tell their stories, barriers that can prevent patients from feeling comfortable to share, and ways to empower patients to do so.



Part 1

Friday, September 6th | 1pm ET

Part 2

Friday, October 4th | 1pm ET

September Office Hours for IMPROVE Trainees

Are you a trainee involved with one of the IMPROVE Centers of Excellence? If you are looking for **assistance with IDP creation and feedback, career development award guidance, or advice on the design and conduct of a small-scale implementation project**, feel free to sign up for office hours with our AMETHIST Training Core Co-Leads or Co-Investigators.

Trainees may include post-docs, undergraduate or medical students, junior faculty, or anyone in a structured training program.

Sign up here for a 20-minute session:

[Monthly Training Core Office Hours - SignUp Sheet](#)

AMETHIST@Penn Announces Maternal Health Implementation Science Pilot Grant Awardees

The AMETHIST@Penn team would like to thank all who have applied!

The awardees and their pilot grant titles are listed below:

- **Kelly Zafman, MD, MSCR, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania**
A Mixed-Methods Approach to Developing Multilevel, Targeted Strategies for Deimplementation of Routine Antidepressant Discontinuation in Pregnancy
 - **Jessica Olson, PhD, MPH, Medical College of Wisconsin**
It Takes a Village: Integrating Implementation and Dissemination Science Approaches to Improve Equity in Birthing Teams
 - **Anna Newton-Levinson, MPH, PhD, Emory University**
Assessing the implementation of a pragmatic randomized controlled trial to address unmet needs for postpartum support and barriers to care: implications for health equity and scale-up
-

Highlighting Our SUMR Interns!



Sheridan Leak
Saint Joseph's University '25



Liz Soyemi
Brown University '26

The AMETHIST@Penn team sends our congratulations and best wishes to our Summer Undergraduate Mentored Research (SUMR) interns: **Sheridan Leak (Saint Joseph's University '25)** & **Liz Soyemi (Brown University '26)**! Both students delivered their final research presentation at the 2024 SUMR Research Symposium on Wednesday, August 14th.

The 12-week internship centered around the integration of implementation science into maternal health research under the AMETHIST@Penn initiative. SUMR students supported the development and facilitation of focus group discussions related to the quality of community-based research. Students also participated in REDCap grant abstraction activities to deepen their understanding of the project aims and various implementation strategies utilized by the IMPROVE Centers of Excellence. All project activities were mentored by Dr. Meghan Lane-Fall, MD, MSHP, & Dr. Rebecca Hamm, MD, MSCE.

We thank both students for their outstanding work and dedication to the implementation science field and its significance to improving maternal health outcomes!



SUMR interns presenting at the 2024 SUMR Research Symposium

AMETHIST@Penn's Design Core Forum Success

Forums hosted by the AMETHIST@Penn Design Core aim to facilitate community conversations amongst IMPROVE Network researchers. This space allows researchers to pose questions to the group and offer their own insights in an effort to support the important work of each IMPROVE Center of Excellence. Previous topics have included **type 1 hybrid trials, reach and acceptability, and qualitative methods for measuring implementation outcomes**. Our past forums have seen great success, and we look forward to future opportunities to support the work of IMPROVE researchers!

If your site has specific questions and would require additional support, please submit a follow-up request using the [Consultation Request Form](#).

Year 2 Follow-Up Survey & Virtual Site Visits

The AMETHIST@Penn IMPROVE Centers of Excellence Follow-Up Survey is currently being developed for year 2. CoEs will soon have the opportunity to indicate any changes to their center's needs related to implementation science design, community engagement, policy, and training. Additional planning is also underway for year 2 virtual site visits with the CoEs.

CoEs, please keep an eye out for an email from us regarding scheduling and more information on preparing for your Y2 virtual site visit!

If there have been any changes to your primary contact list, please email these updates to AMETHIST@pennteam.upenn.edu.

Past & Upcoming Equity Enhancement Collaborative (EEC) Meetings

To-date, the Equity Core has completed two successful Equity Enhancement Collaborative meetings with the IMPROVE Centers of Excellence. The third event will take place early this month.

- **EEC Meeting #1, February 22nd** | Morehouse School of Medicine (CORAL) & Jackson State University (MS Delta)
- **EEC Meeting #2, June 25th** | the University of Oklahoma (CIRCLE) & Avera McKennan Hospital (MARCH)
- **EEC Meeting #3, September 9th** | Michigan State University (MIRACLE), the University of Utah (ELEVATE), & the Medical College of Wisconsin (ASCEND-WI)

The AMETHIST@Penn team would like to thank each of the sites who have attended, as our discussions on sites' equity goals and community engagement strategies have been both robust and insightful!



NHLBI Virtual Workshop: Global Implementation Science Approaches to Improve Maternal Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Health Outcomes

September 16th & 17th | 10 AM-4 PM ET

This workshop will explore the maternal health crisis in the context of health disparities and heart, lung, blood, and sleep (HLBS) disorders that impact maternal mortality and morbidity. Register [here](#) by September 10th at 5 PM ET.

[Virtual Workshop Information](#)

**17th Annual Conference on the Science of
Dissemination and Implementation in Health**
Moving Fast and Slow: Optimizing the Pace of Implementation
December 8th-11th | Arlington, VA

Registration is now open! Please visit [here](#) for more details.

*The conference is co-hosted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and
AcademyHealth.*

Internal AMETHIST@Penn Third Family Meeting

We are pleased to announce our 3rd AMETHIST@Penn Family Meeting taking place on **Thursday, November 21st, 2024 from 8:30am to 1:30pm ET!** This meeting will bring together our internal members to discuss core-specific updates, suggestions and guidance for success in grant year 2, and more!

Additional details including an agenda and a map of our venue will be provided at a later date.

Upcoming Opportunities with Michigan State University (MIRACLE)

Open Faculty Position

Michigan State University has announced an open faculty position in the Maternal Health Multilevel Interventions for Racial Equity (MIRACLE) Center of Excellence. The deadline to apply is **October 31st, 2024.**

[Read More Here](#)

Sign up for a free Amplify@LDI Course on Translating Research for Impact!



The Leonard Davis Institute at Penn offers a free, online course you can take covering key tools and skills in translation and dissemination for researchers. Learn how you can make your research results more accessible through social media, op-eds, blogs and briefs, media engagement, and policymaker engagement!

Learn more about the course and sign up [here](#).

Share your Maternal Health Implementation Science Opportunities with Us!

Would you like to share current job postings or training events related to maternal health implementation science with us? Please email these

opportunities to AMETHIST@pennmedicine.upenn.edu to promote in our monthly newsletters!

Check out our library of resources
or request a consult!

IMPROVE Collaboration Portal

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