



AMETHIST
ACHIEVING MATERNAL EMPOWERMENT
AND TRANSFORMING HEALTH THROUGH
IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE AND
TRAINING

January 2026 News & Updates

Announcements & Upcoming Events



View our full
calendar of events!

January Virtual Seminar: AMETHIST Messaging Series: Strategies for Correcting Health Misinformation

Thursday, January 29th | 1-2 PM ET

In the first installation of this three-part messaging series, **Emily Pfender, PhD**, will discuss evidence-based strategies for correcting health misinformation, managing uncertainty, and communicating during polarized or rapidly evolving contexts. Drawing on communication theory and her background in health communication, she will share key strategies applicable to both general and social media contexts. Following a didactic on these strategies, she will be joined by **Jessica Fishman, PhD**, for a moderated discussion and Q&A, which will expand upon these discussed strategies and address questions from our attendees.

Register for the seminar [here](#).



Emily Pfender, PhD



Jessica Fishman, PhD

February Virtual Seminar: *Pilot Research in Maternal Health and Implementation Science: 3 Research Studies*

Friday, February 6th | 1-2 PM ET

This month, hear from AMETHIST@Penn's 2024-2025 pilot grant researchers who have focused on the intersection of maternal health and implementation science.

Kelly Zafman, MD, MSCR will be presenting on *A Mixed-Methods Approach to Developing Multilevel, Targeted Strategies for Deimplementation of Routine Antidepressant Discontinuation in Pregnancy*. **Anna Newton-Levinson, MPH, PhD** will be presenting on *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*. Finally, **Jessica Olson, PhD, MPH** will be presenting her project: *It Takes a Village: Integrating Implementation and Dissemination Science Approaches to Improve Equity in Birthing Teams*.

[Seminar Registration](#)

Application deadline approaching!

The application deadline for both the OB/GYN Physician and Nurse Researcher positions is Tuesday, January 20th, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET.

Opportunity for Early-Stage OB/GYN Physician Researcher in Maternal Health Implementation Science

AMETHIST@Penn is seeking applicants for a 1-2 year, remote training and mentorship program. **The opportunity is open to Physicians (MD, DO, or equivalent), who:**

- Have completed a residency in OB/GYN
- Are currently in a Fellowship Program obtaining subspecialty training
- Are still within 3 years of their terminal training program
- Are physicians at one of the 12 NIH IMPROVE Maternal Health Centers of Excellence, or at one of the 2 associated Hubs

[Physician Researcher Information](#)

Opportunity for Early-Stage Nurse Researcher in

Maternal Health Implementation Science

AMETHIST@Penn is seeking applicants for a 1-2 year remote training and mentorship program. **The opportunity is open to Nurses who:**

- Have completed a PhD and are still within 3 years of their terminal training program, including those who have passed their qualifications
- Are PhD students who have passed their qualifications, are postdocs, or are assistant professors within their first 3 years of appointment
- Are PhD-prepared researchers with a nursing degree at one of the 12 NIH IMPROVE Maternal Health Centers of Excellence, or at one of the 2 associated Hubs

Nurse Researcher Information

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:

- **Celsea Tibbitt, PhD, RN, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing** | *Contextualizing and Adapting Thrive-Postpartum: An Implementation Science Study to Advance Equitable Postpartum Care Transitions*
- **Adabelle Balatico Carson, MA, University of Utah** | *Enhancing Maternal Healthcare Through Narrative Medicine: A Participatory Pilot Study on Storytelling Modalities and Impact*
- **Arielle Deutsch, PhD, Avera Research Institute** | *Identifying Action Areas to Improve Fidelity Efficacy and Equity of Syphilis Screening and Treatment During Pregnancy: Reducing Maternal Syphilis Rates and Disparity in South Dakota*

February Office Hours for IMPROVE Trainees

Wednesday, February 11th

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](#)



Join us for our third virtual Engagement Enhancement Collaborative (EEC) forum!

Wednesday, March 11th | 2-3:30 PM ET

The discussion will be led by **Dr. Lindsay Admon, MD, MSc, FACOG**, and will focus on geographic challenges in maternal health and Medicaid postpartum benefit extensions.

[**Forum Registration**](#)



AMETHIST staff and attendees gathered at the IS4MH adjunct session in December 2025

Thank you to all who attended the recent IS4MH adjunct session!

On December 14th, 2025, the Implementation Science for Maternal Health interest group (IS4MH) convened ahead of the 18th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination & Implementation in Health (D&I), where presenters shared implementation findings in maternal health research.

The AMETHIST team would like to thank all presenters and attendees!

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@penncare.upenn.edu to promote in our monthly newsletters!

Check out our library of resources
or request a consult!

IMPROVE Collaboration Portal

Connect with us!



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