



AMETHIST

ACHIEVING MATERNAL EMPOWERMENT
AND TRANSFORMING HEALTH THROUGH
IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE AND
TRAINING

June 2025 News & Updates

Announcements & Upcoming Events



View our full
calendar of events!



Welcoming our new IMPROVE-CIP Project Coordinator!

Athena Gainey (she/they) is thrilled to join the AMETHIST team as a Project Coordinator. Athena joins us from the PASS Study Team at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she served as a Clinical Research Assistant/Community Health Partner. Athena assisted in research for parent training interventions for families of children with

ADHD. Prior to her role in PASS, she worked in health equity and identity formation research at Ursinus College and UNC Chapel Hill. She is passionate about advancing equitable reproductive health outcomes, intergenerational mental health, and is enthusiastic about continuing her career and education with the AMETHIST team. Athena is also enrolled as a graduate student in the Graduate School of Education for Counseling Psychology with aims of working in family counseling and family planning.

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

**Virtual Seminar | *Navigating Sensitive Topics:
Strategies for Teaching and Everyday Life***

Friday, June 6th | 1:00p ET



Micki Burdick, PhD



Sarita Sonalkar, MD, MPH

Join us Friday, June 6th at 1pm ET for a thoughtful conversation on navigating sensitive topics across teaching and everyday life. Hosted by **Micki Burdick, PhD** and **Sarita Sonalkar, MD, MPH** from the AMETHIST Engagement Core, this seminar will explore strategies for engaging with complex and emotionally charged subjects.

[Register Here!](#)



**Grow your network.
Enhance your skills.**

7 sessions, June-July curriculum includes:

- Community-academic partnerships
- Developing research questions
- Operationalizing outcome measures
- and more – **to strengthen partnerships and bring community expertise to the forefront of research**



1-2 representatives of community partners of each IMPROVE Center of Excellence may apply

**apply at
bit.ly/IMPROVEapply**

Participation is free! The experience is invaluable...

2025 IMPROVE Community Scholars Training Program

AMETHIST and REACH are proud to begin recruiting for the **Community Scholars Program**. The program is now accepting applications from community partners affiliated with IMPROVE CoEs. This online training program helps build research capacity in community leaders and organizations, guiding Scholars to develop a compelling concept paper and present a poster of a community-driven idea or solution.

[Apply to the Community Scholars Program](#)

Call for Proposals: AMETHIST@Penn Pilot Grants in Maternal Health Implementation Science

AMETHIST@Penn has announced its **[pilot grant in Maternal Health Implementation Science](#)**. The grant is in the amount of \$20,000 for a course of 1- year and will offer investigators support and hands-on mentorship through the AMETHIST Hub. Investigators with interests in maternal health, health disparities, and implementation science are encouraged to apply! Up to

three scholars will be accepted on an annual basis through the grant period, and there is no limit on how many applications can be submitted.

The deadline to apply is June 15th, 2025.

Please email AMETHIST@penmedicine.upenn.edu for more information about this opportunity.

Are you interested in having an abstract reviewed for the 2025 Dissemination & Innovation (D&I) conference?

Our AMETHIST Design Core team has announced they will be providing feedback for those planning to submit an abstract. **Abstracts can be shared with us for review until June 20th, 2025!** If you are interested in this opportunity, please email Dashia Gray-Davis, Design Core Project Coordinator at dashia.davis@penmedicine.upenn.edu.

The deadline to submit abstracts to D&I is **July 15th, 2025 at 5:00p ET.**

[D&I 2025 Call for Abstracts Webpage](#)

June Office Hours for IMPROVE Trainees

Wednesday, June 18th

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](#)

To all Policy Day attendees:

The AMETHIST@Penn Policy Core would like to extend its thanks to all who have participated in our first ever Policy Day on May 13th! Each session explored a wealth of information on maternal health legislation, with the opportunity for robust discussion.



As a follow-up to the event, an AMETHIST guide with information on our speakers and policy-focused resources can be found [here](#). Additionally, please let us know how we did by filling out the brief post-Policy Day [survey!](#)



To our AMETHIST@Penn Family:

Thank you for attending our 4th Family Meeting! The updates you've shared have been invaluable as we continue our work in maternal health implementation science research. We look forward to our next gathering!

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](#)

Connect with us!



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