



AMETHIST

ACHIEVING MATERNAL EMPOWERMENT
AND TRANSFORMING HEALTH THROUGH
IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE AND
TRAINING

September 2025 News & Updates

Announcements & Upcoming Events



View our full
calendar of events!



Virtual Seminar: *Using Persuasive and Strategic Communication for Policy Impact*

Friday, September 5th | 1:00pm ET

In this seminar, **Emily Pfender, PhD**, will explore how persuasive and strategic communication can be leveraged to influence attitudes, behaviors, and policy outcomes. Drawing from communication theory, principles of influence, and her background in health communication, she will outline key strategies that align with evidence-based best practices. She will also incorporate insights from policy communication scholarship to highlight effective message design. **Julia Hinckley, J.D.** will join to further contextualize these communication strategies within real-world policymaking settings and to answer questions from our attendees.

[Zoom Registration](#)

Virtual Forum: *Studying the Implementation of Doulas within Projects: Part 2*

The AMETHIST Design Core is hosting a continuation of their Spring forum: *Studying the Implementation of Doulas Within Projects*, taking place on **September 24th, 12:00 pm ET**.

During this forum, we will expand upon our previous conversation and

dive deeper into methods of measuring the implementation of doulas. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with each other in a shared learning environment. You can register for the event [here](#).

If you have any questions or would be interested in speaking during this forum, please reach out to Dashia Gray-Davis (dashia.davis@pennteam.upenn.edu).

Join us for our next Engagement Enhancement Collaborative (EEC) Forum!

October 21st, 2025 | 1:00 PM ET

The forum will be on Affirming Gender in the Context of Pregnancy, Birth, and Parenthood, led by [Dr. Natalie Fixmer-Oraiz, PhD](#). All Center members are encouraged to attend including community partners! Please share this information with anyone on your team who may be interested.

[EEC Forum Registration](#)

AMETHIST@Penn Office Hours Survey

Every month, AMETHIST offers short office hours sessions with our AMETHIST Training Core Co-Leads or Co-Investigators. This time is available for assistance with IDP creation and feedback, career development award guidance or advice on the design and conduct of a small-scale implementation project. Trainees may include post-docs, undergraduate or medical students, junior faculty, or anyone in a structured training program.

Please take 1 minute to complete this 2-question survey for us to restructure and continue to provide these sessions this fall.

[Link to Survey](#)



Community Engagement
and Research Core

Community Partner Training Opportunity

The Community Engagement and Research Core is excited to offer a free, online training course focused on strengthening skills in human subject research and identifying the responsibilities of community-based

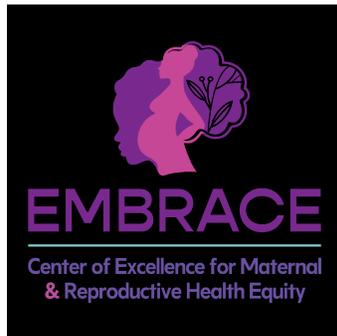
researchers. If you are interested in this training opportunity or know someone who would be, please visit this [link](#) for more information.

Funding Opportunity: Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine Perinatal Quality Foundation (PQF) Award



For multidisciplinary team projects designed to improve patient safety or quality of obstetrical care, the Foundation for SMFM will award up to \$25,000 in a new program funded by a generous legacy donation from the Perinatal Quality Foundation (PQF). Application instructions are available [here](#).

Applications will be accepted through September 15th, 2025!



Check out the latest published article
from the EMBRACE Center of Excellence
at the University of Pittsburgh!

*Advancing Maternal Health through the EMBRACE
Research Center of Excellence: Foundations,
Approach and Protocol:*

<https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-0528.18335>

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@penncmedicine.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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