AMETHIST

ACHIEVING MATERNAL EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMING HEALTH THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE AND TRAINING

September 2026 News & Updates

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Upcoming Seminar | Implementation Outcomes: Selection, Measurement, and Evaluation

Friday, September 11th | 1-2pm ET

Join the AMETHIST Design Core Co-Leads, Dr. LauraEllen Ashcraft and Dr. Rebecca Hamm, for a seminar discussing how investigators can select, measure, and evaluate implementation outcomes within the context of their projects. This session will introduce practical approaches for evaluating implementation outcomes both prospectively and retrospectively using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. Attendees will learn strategies for selecting meaningful outcomes and measures, collecting and analyzing data, and interpreting findings to strengthen implementation and evaluation efforts. Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear insights from their fellow investigators and how they are approaching implementation outcomes within their own projects.

Link to Register

Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) Data Collection Workshop

Wednesday, September 16th | 12pm-2pm ET



LauraEllen Ashcraft, PhD, MSW



Caitlin Reardon, MPH

This workshop will review the five steps for using CFIR in implementation research (based on the CFIR User Guide manuscript) and include an interactive activity on how to collect data using CFIR. While the workshop is designed for those with foundational knowledge of CFIR, newcomers are also welcome and will benefit from the structured overview and guided activity.

Registration Link!

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frontiers

AMETHIST Publication Announcement

AMETHIST is excited to announce a new article, the embedded documentation of implementation tracking (EDIT): a low-burden approach to supporting implementation documentation in health research, on the EDIT tool was published to Frontiers!

Read the article here!

Introducing Our New AMETHIST Scholars!



Maternal Health Implementation Science Nurse Research Scholar: Jena Wallander Gemkow, PhD-C, MPH, BSN, RN (CoE: Luma Center at UIC)

Jena Wallander Gemkow, PhD-C, MPH, BSN, RN, serves as a Research and Public Health Scientist at



Maternal Health Implementation Science Physician Research Scholar: Monica Sosa, MD (CoE: ELEVATE Center at University of Utah)

AllianceChicago, leading research and public health projects geared toward improving healthcare at community health centers. Jena is a graduate of Marquette University College of Nursing and received her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Colorado-Anschutz College of Nursing in the Health Care Systems track with a focus on health care utilization during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

Monica Sosa, MD is currently a second year Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellow at the University of Utah. She completed medical school at Texas A&M and completed her Obstetrics and Gynecology residency training at the University of Washington in Seattle. In fellowship, her work has focused on improving postpartum care through remote blood pressure monitoring, maternal anemia treatment, and diabetes screening—areas she hopes to continue advancing through implementation science to reduce maternal health disparities.

September Office Hours

September 9th from 12pm-1pm ET

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.

Link to Attend

AMETHIST Rapid Consultations

Looking for feedback on a new project idea? Want to discuss reviewer comments on a grant proposal? Have a quick IS question that you'd like some input on? The AMETHIST Design Core's "rapid consultations" offer IMPROVE researchers the opportunity to connect with an AMETHIST team member for early-stage feedback, brainstorming, and strategic thought partnership on a specific project or challenge.

To request a rapid consultation, contact Shelby Billups (**shelby.billups@pennmedicine.upenn.edu**) and share 4–5 dates/times that work for you over the next 1–2 weeks. From there, we'll schedule a 15–30-minute meeting between you and an AMETHIST team member.

Apply to be a Co-Chair with the Implementation Science for Maternal Health (IS4MH) Special Interest Group!

The *Implementation Science for Maternal Health (IS4MH) Special Interest Group* is **seeking two new Co-Chairs** to help lead and grow its community beginning in 2027.

The Co-Chairs will provide strategic and operational leadership for the group. **Applicants from all degree backgrounds and disciplines are welcome**, including but not limited to medicine, nursing, public health, maternal health, behavioral sciences, social sciences, health services research, and implementation science.

Eligibility: Attendance at a prior IS4MH event is required to be considered.

Applications are due Sunday, November 1st, 2026. Please submit all materials to **rebecca.feldmanhamm@pennmedicine.upenn.edu.**

Full Application Criteria



Community Partners – apply to join the Community Scholars Program to connect, learn, and advance maternal health research!

The *IMPROVE Community Scholars Program* – led by **REACH** through the **AMETHIST** Implementation Science Hub, and as part of the **NIH IMPROVE Initiative** – is a free, virtual training designed for community leaders ready to turn maternal health priorities into actionable research. Through an interactive cohort model, participants gain practical skills, expert guidance, and peer connections while developing their own research question, measurable outcomes, and draft concept paper in progress towards a pilot grant opportunity. More than a training, the program builds a supportive community of practice where participants learn from one another and form lasting partnerships.

Apply today to strengthen your impact and help advance maternal health solutions through research. This programming is set to launch Fall of 2026.

Check out our library of resources or request a consult!

IMPROVE Collaboration Portal

Connect with us!

University of Pennsylvania | 3641 Locust Walk | Philadelphia, PA 19104 US

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