



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

## April 2026 News & Updates

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### Announcements & Upcoming Events



View our full  
calendar of events!

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#### Launch of our new AMETHIST website!

We are excited to announce that our official AMETHIST@Penn website is now live, where all AMETHIST resources, announcements, and upcoming events will be shared. Check it out here! <https://amethist.org>

[Visit the Website](https://amethist.org)

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#### **Virtual Seminar:** *Financing Maternity Care in the US: Payment Models, Policy Levers, and Opportunities for Innovation*

*Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> | 1-2:00 PM ET*

For our April seminar, please join **Madeline Perry, MD**, National Clinician Scholar in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the *Perelman School of Medicine*. This presentation will provide an overview of how maternity care is financed in the United States, including the insurance landscape and the dominant payment structures that shape care delivery. We will also explore how payment policy can drive changes in clinical practice and discuss strategies for funding and scaling innovation in maternity care.

[Seminar Registration](#)

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**April Office Hours for IMPROVE Trainees**

Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

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.

Select a slot here!

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**Leonard David Institute (LDI) Virtual Workshop:**  
*Data Visualization and Graphic Design for Policy Change*

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> | 2-3:30 PM ET



**Julia Hinckley, JD**



**Manuel de la Cruz Gutierrez,  
PhD**

This workshop will help participants learn to increase the impact of their research with policy audiences through data visualization and graphics. The session will cover how to identify framing that resonates with policymakers and leverage design elements in data visualizations to tell stories and drive insights into research and its implications for policy. The workshop will be led by University of Pennsylvania experts **Manuel de la Cruz Gutierrez**, Director of the *Holman Biotech Commons*, and **Julia Hinckley**, Director of Policy Strategy at the *Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics*.

Workshop Registration

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**Virtual Workshop: Applying CFIR to Maternal Health Research**

Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> | 1-2:00 PM ET

Interested in learning more about how the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) can apply to your IMPROVE project? Join

our maternal health-specific follow-up to the recent [CFIR Workshop](#) hosted by the Penn Implementation Science Center (PISCE). This session will demonstrate how to apply the CFIR framework to your maternal health research projects and provide a space to discuss successes and challenges teams have faced in using CFIR.

[Register Here](#)

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### Virtual Seminar:

#### *Building Authentic Academic-Community Research Partnerships: Lessons from the Community Scholars Model*

*Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> | 1-2:00 PM ET*



**Nicole Thomas, EdD, MBA**



**Sara Solomon, DrPH, MPH, RD**

This seminar will explore strategies for building authentic community–academic research partnerships, drawing on more than a decade of documented success from the REACH Community Scholars model. Participants will learn how centering community expertise, sharing power, and investing in capacity building can lead to effective, sustainable research and real-world impact, with examples from the model’s current application within AMETHIST and the IMPROVE Centers of Excellence.

The session will be led by **Nicole Thomas, EdD, MBA** and **Sara Solomon, DrPH, MPH, RD**, Co-Directors of the *Community Scholars Program* and the *REACH* initiative at the University of Pennsylvania. Together, they bring extensive experience advancing community-engaged research, implementation science, and capacity-building initiatives that strengthen partnerships between community organizations and academic institutions, to address health equity and justice.

[Seminar Registration](#)

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# Communications Summit

**MESSAGING, MISINFORMATION,  
MISTRUST, AND MATERNAL HEALTH**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
REP. LAUREN UNDERWOOD



THURSDAY MAY 14, 2026  
12PM-4PM EST  
VIRTUAL EVENT

## **Please join us for the 2026 AMETHIST@Penn Communications Summit!**

*Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> | 12-4:00 PM ET*

Registration for our 2026 AMETHIST Communications Summit is **now open**. This year's Summit will focus on **messaging, misinformation, mistrust, and maternal health**. Attendees will hear from expert speakers such as our keynote, **United States Representative Lauren Underwood**, and have the opportunity to engage with their fellow IMPROVE network members on topics such as influencing policy, building trust and engagement amongst audience members, and strategies for translating research into impactful and effective messaging for different audiences.

[Summit Registration](#)

## **NIH CEAL Annual Meeting (CAM) & Maternal Health Annual Meeting Day (MHAM), March 2026**

AMETHIST extends our sincere gratitude to the NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) and the Community Engagement and Technical Center (CETAC) team for hosting an informative and engaging meeting. We appreciate the opportunity for AMETHIST representatives to attend in person, and are inspired by the incredible work happening in community-engaged research across the alliance. We look forward to future collaborations and partnerships!

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

AMETHIST@Penn has announced its [2026 Pilot Grant in Maternal Health Implementation Science call for proposals](#). This opportunity is for a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to support a 1- year research project 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 per CoE or CIP. **The deadline to apply is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

Please email [AMETHIST@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:AMETHIST@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) for more information about this opportunity.



**PISCE to host its 10<sup>th</sup> annual  
Implementation Science Institute (ISI) this June 2026**

*June 23<sup>rd</sup>-June 26<sup>th</sup> | 12-5:00 PM ET (Daily)*

**Registration** is now open for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Implementation Science Institute, and **will close on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**. This year's keynote speaker will be **Dr. Byron Powell, PhD** of Brown School at Washington University in Saint Louis, MO.

The AMETHIST@Penn team will sponsor up to 2 members from each IMPROVE Center of Excellence. More information on these sponsorships will be shared with Centers between now and April 2026. Please stay tuned!

[About ISI](#)

[ISI 2026 Event Flyer](#)

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**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](mailto: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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