



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

## May 2026 News & Updates

### Announcements & Upcoming Events



View our full  
calendar of events!

**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

Please find information about follow-up sessions below.

### 2026 AMETHIST@Penn Communications Summit: Follow-up Sessions

#### *Source Credibility and Re-Establishing Trust in Science*

**Date:** May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1-2:00 PM ET | **Facilitator:** Emily Pfender, PhD

In this session, **Dr. Emily Pfender** will explore how scientific credibility is established, challenged, and restored - and how researchers can more effectively communicate their work to diverse audiences. This interactive session is designed to encourage dialogue, reflection, and shared learning.

#### Source Credibility Registration

#### *Patient Storytelling: An Interactive Panel Discussion*

**Date:** May 29<sup>th</sup>, 12-1:00 PM ET | **Facilitator:** Aaron Levy, PhD, MPhil

Led by **Dr. Aaron Levy** of the *Penn Listening Lab* (PLL) alongside a patient advocate and clinician speaker, this interactive discussion will highlight the impact and importance of patient stories. Click here to [register](#) and share how to collect and share them responsibly and widely. Attendees will leave this session understanding the value of patient stories, the care involved in their collection, and the insights they can offer when we slow down and listen.

#### Patient Storytelling Registration

#### *Communications Strategy Discussion with Penn LDI*

**Date:** June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1-2:00 PM ET | **Facilitator:** Julia Hinckley, JD

Join **Julia Hinckley, JD** of the *Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics* (Penn LDI) for an interactive post-Communications Summit session that offers attendees the space to reflect on what they learned from the event and what they want to carry forward into their work. The session will provide practical tips for sustaining relationships with key audience members and provide a dedicated space for participants to raise lingering questions, test ideas, and identify practical actions they are ready to bring into their communication efforts.

#### Communications Strategy Registration

## May Office Hours for IMPROVE Trainees

Wednesday, May 13<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 Session Here



**Virtual Seminar: Qualitative Methodology in Maternal Health: Ethnography and Field Methods**  
Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> | 1-200 PM ET

Many medical and public health researchers use qualitative methods such as interviewing to further their research in maternal health. However, there are other types of qualitative methods that could benefit these studies and their aims. Using their own experiences in these methods, **Micki Burdick, PhD** will explain an approach to qualitative research in maternal health that centers on fieldwork and ethnographic methods. Dr. Burdick will explore particular strategies within these methods and practical advice to engage these methods in your own work.

Seminar Registration

### 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@pennteam.upenn.edu](mailto:AMETHIST@pennteam.upenn.edu) for more information about this opportunity.

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**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 and will close on **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

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.

[About ISI](#)

[ISI 2026 Event Flyer](#)

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**An update on our AMETHIST-IMPROVE  
Year 3 virtual site visits!**

The AMETHIST@Penn Hub is excited to announce that we have completed all Year 3 site visits with the 12 IMPROVE Centers of Excellence! Thank you to all who have participated in working meetings with our team, sharing updates about your Center's research design strategies.

Sites are encouraged to continue scheduling consultations with us by using the **Consult Request Form**.

We look forward to reconvening in Year 4!

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**Call for Applications:** *The National Institute for Healthcare Management Foundation (NIHCM), Policy Research Grant Program*

The *National Institute for Healthcare Management Foundation (NIHCM)* is currently accepting letters of inquiry for the 2026-2027 funding cycle of their Policy Research Grant program. **Up to \$500,000 in grant funding will be awarded.**

Requests for funding should align with one or more of the following areas: health care costs and quality, health care consolidation, artificial intelligence, pharmaceutical drugs & technology, rural health, or maternal health.

**The application deadline is June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:00 PM Eastern.**

[Policy Research Grant Information](#)

[Submit a Brief Letter of Inquiry](#)

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**Administrative Supplement Opportunity:  
IMPROVE Highlighted Topic**

The NIH recently published a highlighted topic asking for administrative supplements for existing IMPROVE awardees/investigators. More information about the announcement can be found here:

[Enhancing the IMPROVE-funded Maternal Health Centers of Excellence | Grants & Funding](#)

**The deadline to submit an administrative supplement is  
Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.**

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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@pennteam.upenn.edu](mailto:AMETHIST@pennteam.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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