

## **Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Summer Research Fellowships**

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The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has established 8-week research fellowships for University of Pennsylvania medical students during the summer following the first year of medical school. These fellowships provide an exciting opportunity for motivated individuals who are considering a career in Obstetrics and Gynecology to develop skills in research methodology while gaining valuable mentorship within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Three fellowships positions are offered. Following acceptance to the Health Care Innovation or Reproductive Research fellowships, the student will be asked to meet with prospective faculty mentors (listed below) before selecting one to work with in the field of focus. The student awarded the AMETHIST fellowship will be mentored by Dr. Hamm.

### **HEALTH CARE INNOVATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

#### **Emily Ko, MD, MSCR**

Research interests: access to care in gynecologic oncology

Potential projects: Reduction of disparities in gynecologic cancer care and clinical trials enrollment, telehealth and geospatial analyses and development of peer-ambassador programs to improve clinical trial enrollment, developing peer support program to improve gynecologic cancer outcomes, access to care in gynecologic oncology using nationally using claims databases, policy related research (i.e. chemotherapy drug shortage, access to care, insurance barriers, pre-authorization, reimbursement, cost analyses)

#### **Anuja Dokras, MD, PhD**

Research interests: health care innovation in fertility care

Projects: “Fast track to fertility” - improving patient experience and efficiency in infertility workup and diagnosis with text and chatbot technology

### **REPRODUCTIVE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

#### **Anna Jo Smith, MD, MPH, MSc**

Research interests: improving screening and diagnosis of gynecologic cancer

Projects: 1) Toward Equitable Diagnosis of Adnexal Masses: Project is evaluating diagnostic accuracy of current modalities for adnexal masses and developing interventions to improve referral to gynecologic oncology. 2) Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Gynecologic Oncology (joint project with Emily Ko). Project is implementation and evaluation of Universal Social Needs Screening and Appropriate referrals in gyn onc clinic

#### **Nia Bhadra-Heintz, MD, MS**

Research interests: Perinatal substance use disorders; Gender affirming care (Holly Cummings, MD; Peter Vasquez, MD).

Potential projects: Exploration of birthing experiences for individuals with substance use disorders, postpartum and postoperative pain control for birthing individuals with opioid use disorder, suboxone pre-authorization and delays in care, perinatal substance use disorder treatment reimbursement, disparity in gyn care for trans patients, misgendering in healthcare by department, state requirements for gender affirming surgery, coding, and cost analysis, coverage for testosterone therapy and gaps in care.

#### **Beth Pineles, MD**

Research interests/Potential Projects: De-implementation of bedrest/activity restriction in pregnancy, Exercise in pregnancy, Patient-focused medical language for pregnant people with obesity, Cystic fibrosis in pregnancy and fetal treatment, Placenta accreta spectrum disorders – quality improvement and patient mental health

#### **Courtney Schreiber, MD and. Andrea Roe, MD (co-mentors)**

Research interests: family planning and contraception

Potential Projects: Evaluating the effects of Nexplanon use among women with Sickle Cell Disease, using retrospective data to compare the patient experience of patients receiving treatment for abortion and pregnancy loss, and working to implement mifepristone for previable PPROM at hospitals throughout UPHS.

### **AMETHIST@PENN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

#### **Rebecca F. Hamm, MD, MSCE**

Research interests: implementation of evidence-based practices that reduce disparities into maternity care

Projects: understanding barriers and facilitators to implementation of equity-focused evidence-based practices in maternity care across the US; implementing a calculator to predict cesarean risk during labor induction at 14 diverse sites

The NIH Implementing a Maternal Health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative aims to reduce maternal mortality, improve pregnancy, perinatal and postpartum care, and to address the factors that have led to severe disparities in outcomes for marginalized groups. The Achieving Maternal Equity and Transforming Health through Implementation Science and Training (AMETHIST@Penn) Implementation Science Hub supports the IMPROVE Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence (CoEs) across the country and other IMPROVE investigators. [AMETHIST@Penn | Penn Implementation Science Center | Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania \(upenn.edu\)](#).

**POSITION DETAILS:**

- Full-time 8-week fellowship (3 positions available)
- June 2024-August 2024; specific start and end dates flexible
- \$2500 stipend provided
- Positions are not benefits eligible

**APPLICATION TIMELINE:**

- Deadline for application is January 5, 2024
- Final selection will occur by January 26, 2024