

May 2025 Newsletter

News & Updates

Meet Dr. Courtney Wolk, PISCE Executive Director



[Courtney Benjamin Wolk, PhD](#), is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, the Associate Director of the Penn Center for Mental Health in the Department of Psychiatry.

I am thrilled to step into the role of Executive Director at the Penn Implementation Science Center. I am honored to lead such a dedicated community of implementation scientists and look forward to advancing our mission of translating research into impactful practice.

Meet Dr. Danielle Cullen, PISCE Director of Education



[Danielle Cullen, MD, MPH, MSHP](#), is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Director of Health Services and Health Equity Research for the Division of Emergency Medicine at CHOP, and Associate Director of Implementation Science at CHOP ClinicalFutures.

“I’m honored to join the phenomenal PISCE team in shaping the future of implementation science by expanding educational opportunities, building lasting capacity for research and practice, and fostering a dynamic, interconnected community of implementation scientists at all career stages.”

Registration Closes Soon (5/16) for Penn ISI!

Registration for the [9th Annual Penn Implementation Science Institute](#) (held virtually from **June 24th to June 27th**) closes on **May 16th**. ISI aims to provide participants with the tools to design and execute rigorous implementation science

VIRTUAL Penn PISCIE

9TH ANNUAL PENN IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE INSTITUTE

DATE: June 24 - June 25, 2023
TIME: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (EST) each day

Course Credits Available

Program Topics

Day 1

- Introduction to Implementation Science
- History & Frameworks
- Tools, Design & Methods

Day 2

- Implementation Strategies and Outcomes
- Implementation Science & Quality Improvement
- Case Studies

Day 3

- Recent Topics in Implementation Science
- Case Studies
- Thematic, Methods & Frameworks
- Case Studies

Day 4 (Early in morning, optional health break)

- Participant Research
- Networked Economics
- Policy Dissemination
- Guest Presenters

Our Keynote Speaker

J.D. Smith, PhD
University of Utah
Associate Professor and Director of the Implementation Science Center
Chairman, Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis

Cost: \$1800*
*This event is open to Penn Medicine faculty and staff.

REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL 5/16

Scan here for more information and to register!

*In support of ongoing patient care, Penn Medicine is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council on Education and Training for Physicians (ACETP) and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). In order to receive the credit for this activity you must be a Penn Medicine faculty member. Physicians from outside organizations may apply for approval of CME/ACCME/ANCC credit through the Penn Medicine Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis. Penn Medicine is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Penn Medicine is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Penn Medicine is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Penn Medicine is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Email us: lsinstitute@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

research.

If you have any questions regarding the event or registration, please reach out to ISInstitute@penmedicine.upenn.edu.

Register Here

Senior Fellows Spotlight: Sarita Sonalkar, MD, MPH



Sarita Sonalkar, MD, MPH, is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Sonalkar's research is focused on implementation of evidence-based sexual health interventions, to improve equity and access, and reduce stigma. She is interested in many areas of sexual health including postpartum contraception, HIV prevention, and evidence-based management of early pregnancy complications. One example of an exciting project was her work in Ghana, where along with a team of partners from the World Health Organization and the University of Ghana School of Public Health, they created and piloted a mobile app to disseminate WHO family planning guidance. They conducted a hybrid type II implementation-effectiveness trial in 3 hospital postpartum units to assess the completeness and accuracy of counseling and uptake of contraceptive methods. More recently, the LDI has supported qualitative and survey research that Dr. Sonalkar is conducting along with mentees Rachel McKean and Jessica Wu in the areas of management of early pregnancy complications; both projects have important implications for abortion access in the United States.

Senior Fellows Spotlight: Elizabeth Lowenthal, MD, MSCE



Liz Lowenthal is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and CHOP. She is Research Director for CHOP's Global Health Center and Director of the Developmental Core for the Penn Center for AIDS Research. Her research is focused on children impacted by HIV and other pediatric global health priorities, particularly in the three countries where CHOP has formal global health partnerships (Botswana, Dominican Republic, Ghana). She is a member of the NIH-sponsored Adolescent HIV Prevention and Treatment Implementation Science Alliance (AHISA), an international alliance of researchers using Implementation Science methods to improve the health of adolescents who are at risk for or living with HIV. Dr. Lowenthal is passionate about making implementation science

available to researchers in resource-limited settings and has collaborated on translations of Implementation Science Frameworks into Spanish. Currently, her team is working to implement neurocognitive screening with the Penn Computerized Neurocognitive Battery (PCNB) in Botswana schools to help improve support for children with neurocognitive differences. This work builds on an R01-funded study (MPI R01 HD095278) that culturally-adapted and validated the PCNB for use in Botswana. Leveraging support from the Botswana Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education and a Penn Global Engagement Grant, she is involving Penn students in measuring implementation determinants to help guide a rollout of screening nationally.

PISCE's Upcoming Events



How to Choose? Implementation Science Frameworks and Health Equity: An Overview for Early-Stage Investigators *with Katelin Hoskins, PhD, MBE, CRNP and Stephen Bonett, PhD, RN*

On May 15, 2025 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm EST, [Dr. Katelin Hoskins](#) and [Dr. Stephen Bonett](#) will host a lecture that focuses on the use of theories, models, and frameworks within implementation science with an emphasis on health equity.

[Register Here](#)

IS Penn & CHOP Publications

Burriss HH, Darden N, Power M, Walker L, Ledyard R, Reiter J, Lewey J, Trout KK, Tan M, Gregory EF, DeMauro SB, Lorch SA, Christ L, Handley SC, Montoya-Williams D, Durnwald C. (2025). [Postpartum Care in the Neonatal intensive Care Unit \(PeliCaN\) - a Randomized Controlled Trial](#). *Am J Obstet Gynecol MFM*.

Fijačko N, Metličar Š, Janžekovič B, Abella BS, Nadkarni VM, Chang TP, Greif R. (2025). [Extended reality technologies in adult basic life support education: A scoping review](#). *Resusc Plus*.

Fijačko N, Schnaubelt S, Nadkarni VM, Metličar Š, Greif R. (2025). [Analyzing resuscitation conference content through the lens of the chain of survival](#). *Resusc Plus*.

Hoffecker G, Mulugeta-Gordon L, Wittner V, Wang X, Gysler S, Deagostino-Kelly M,

Tuteja S. (2025). [Feasibility of pharmacogenetic-guided selection of postoperative analgesics in gynecologic surgery patients: a prospective, randomized, pilot study.](#) *Pharmacogenet Genomics*.

Osude N, Spall HV, Bosworth H, Krychtiuk K, Spertus J, Fatoba S, Fleisher L, Fry E, Green J, Greene S, Ho M, Jackman J, Leopold J, Magwire M, McGuire D, Mensah G, Tuttle KR, Willey V, Pagidipati N, Granger C. (2025). [Advancement of the implementation of evidence-based therapies for cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic conditions: A multi-stakeholder perspective.](#) *Am Heart J*.

Beidas, R.S., Aarons, G.A., Geng, E.H. *et al.* (2025). [Implementation science grant terminations in the United States.](#) *Implementation Sci*

Sanchez AL, Mills C, Coley D, Hoskins K, Momplaisir F, Gross R, Brady KA, Beidas RS. (2025). [Systemic inequities, dignity, and trust in the context of HIV care: a qualitative analysis.](#) *Int J Equity Health*.

Educational Opportunities

Implementation in a Learning Health System Institute

May 19 - 23, 2025

Wake Forest University Charlotte Center

The Implementation in a Learning Health System Institute will provide attendees with the knowledge and skills needed to propose, design, implement, and evaluate healthcare innovations in the context of a learning health system. Designed for academic faculty, clinician-researchers, and healthcare leaders who conduct implementation science, or those currently involved in implementation practice who wish to obtain a deeper understanding of key principles and strategies, this institute will cover theories, models, and frameworks, as well as the development of protocols, evaluation approaches, and implementation strategies while developing the leadership skills necessary to navigate complex health systems.

[Learn More](#)

Qualitative Research Core Summer Workshop

May - June 2025

Virtual (via Teams)

The Qualitative Research Core at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is pleased to announce their Summer Workshop Series, running from May through June 2025. This series includes three in-depth workshops designed to build and strengthen qualitative research skills:

- Conducting Qualitative Interviews – \$200 per person
- Managing Qualitative Research Projects – \$400 per person
- Positionality, Reflexivity, and Writing a Positionality Statement – \$200 per person

Each workshop includes 2–3 hours of training, offered across multiple session dates to accommodate participants' schedules and provide flexibility for engagement.

We welcome researchers at all levels and look forward to supporting your growth in qualitative methods.

For more information or to register, please contact [Katie Kellom](#).

Job Opportunities

Senior Research Coordinator - Community Health at Tufts University

Under general supervision of the Principal Investigator, the Senior Research Coordinator will work to successfully achieve technical and administrative project milestones for an extramurally-funded research grant focused on widespread and sustainable implementation of a clinical decision aid across healthcare settings and systems. This is a grant-funded and limited term **position ending June 1, 2026**.

For more information and the application, click [here](#).

Postdoctoral Fellow - Research on Ethics, Aging, and Community Health (REACH) at Tufts University

The REACH Lab at Tufts University invites applications for a full-time, fully-funded Postdoctoral Fellowship which provides excellent preparation for independent research and faculty positions. This position will provide early career researchers with valuable experience and mentorship in health services research, intervention design and analysis, and grant writing. The postdoctoral fellow will join a vibrant team engaged in multidisciplinary research teams conducting innovative research in shared decision-making, health policy, and implementation science. The position is one year, with potential for renewal for up to three years with successful performance.

For more information, click [here](#). To apply send your CV and cover letter to [Karen Ladin, PhD, MSc](#).

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