

Women's History Month Achievers Award



WINNERS



Emily Adams
Clinical Laboratory Specialist
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Emily Adams, a research and development specialist in the Molecular Diagnostics Lab in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has made tremendous sacrifices during the COVID-19 pandemic through her work — particularly with regard to coronavirus testing. In her typical role, Emily is responsible for developing tests used daily for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients. Since the pandemic began, Emily led the development of a saliva-based test for SARS-CoV-2, in collaboration with her supervisor Katie Beierl. They created a lab from an empty space, and within two months were performing thousands of tests daily. Developing the tests and having the capacity to process large quantities directly contributed Johns Hopkins' ability to screen employees and members of the community.

Adams has made quiet but crucial contributions to controlling the spread of the pandemic coronavirus. Setting up their lab's capability alone required months of working long hours. She continues her work directing the development of cancer patient biomarkers, and in the lab she is a prime educator — one who has mentored many technicians. Through her leadership, she recruited and trained the more-than 20 employees needed to work in the new COVID testing lab. In valuing diversity, she has helped recruit a largely female, African-American workforce and has helped develop team members to the level required in clinical lab operations.



Katie Beierl
Clinical Laboratory Manager
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Katie Beierl is the manager for a clinical pathology lab that performs cutting-edge tests for cancers, and she manages a staff of 25 people. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise in need for testing facilities, she directed the creation of a new testing lab within two months and created a new saliva-based approach. These tests were used by the entire Johns Hopkins community, from students to hospital staff to faculty. To date, nearly a half million tests have been performed by this lab, and according to Johns Hopkins University leadership, this testing capability contributed to the university's ability to reopen in-person operations.

Beierl continues to manage a cancer genetics lab, and ensures that our large community of cancer patients get the proper treatment based on their genetic profile. She also uplifts her staff members, and all of the lead technologists reporting to her are currently women. She strives to recruit women and underrepresented minorities, and mentors them into advancing in their careers. The staff of the new COVID-19 testing lab is made up of more than 90% minority members, four of those staff members have been recruited to full-time, permanent positions in the main lab.

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Carlie Myers, M.D., M.S.
*Pediatric Intensive Care Fellow
Johns Hopkins Children's Center/
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine*

Carlie Myers, a third-year pediatric care medicine fellow, is known as an exceptional physician who is wonderful with families, great in crisis, and an example of grace and professionalism. She serves in several leadership roles, including vice chair of quality and patient safety (Johns Hopkins Clinical Fellows Council), and she was selected for the Johns Hopkins Graduate Medical Education Health Systems Science Distinction Track. She is the only trainee representative of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Clinical Learning Environment Review Committee. Myers also serves on the trainee's diversity council, and she advocates for underrepresented minority candidates and applicants considering training at Johns Hopkins.

Myers is "focused on health disparities impacting children in regards to critical care utilization. Her research is likely going to result in a significant impact to many vulnerable populations, specifically in children in high poverty areas of Baltimore City," says Panagis Galitsatos, a physician in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Myers has expanded her research by meeting with community leaders to discuss pediatric illnesses and ways of circumventing them. Her primary research project in fellowship is centered on the role of environmental impact on children's health due to disparities. Myers was awarded an abstract award from the Society of Critical Care Medicine.



Lydia H. Pecker, M.D.
*Assistant Professor of Medicine,
Pediatric Hematology
Director, Young Adult Clinic,
Johns Hopkins Sickle Cell Center for Adults
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*

Lydia Pecker is a young-adult sickle cell hematologist, and her research is focused on reproductive health. She is the founder and director of the Young Adult Clinic at the Johns Hopkins Sickle Cell Center. In addition to providing care to patients living with sickle cell disease, she provides evidence-based reproductive counseling to her female patients. Her current research grant funds study of the effects of sickle cell disease and its primary treatment — hydroxyurea — on fertility and other reproductive outcomes. She is an advocate for her patients and regularly meets with a working group at the Centers for Disease Control to guide their Sickle Cell Disease initiatives. She recently presented to a congressional committee about reproductive health in women with sickle cell disease.

In addition to her tremendous patient care, Pecker is passionate about mentoring young women in medicine. Her mentees describe her as not only nurturing their careers in medicine — including helping them develop research methodology, writing and presentation skills — but also through investing in their well-being with semiannual trainee dinners at her home, and randomly sending them books to read that she believes would support their personal and professional development. She recently partnered with a young adult patient to start a nonprofit organization called the Sickle Cell Disease Reproductive Health Education Directive, which provides education and resources to sickle cell patients of reproductive age.

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FINALISTS



Haley Abramson
*Ph.D. Candidate
Johns Hopkins
University School of
Medicine*

Haley Abramson, a Ph.D. candidate and researcher in the field of biomedical engineering is dedicated to advancing translational medicine via ultrasound devices for neurosurgery. She is a collaborator on the HEPIUS team, which consists of over two dozen clinicians and engineers with expertise in computer programming. (HEPIUS is an acronym that stands for holistic, electrical, ultrasonic and physiological interventions unburdening those with spinal cord injury.) Her primary focus on the team is the development of an implantable ultrasound device to monitor and heal patients suffering from traumatic spinal cord injury, and her contribution within this project is to design an algorithm to process ultrasound images taken by the device and analyze the degree of spinal cord tissue perfusion — a key indication of the healing process.

Abramson has worked to improve health care for women globally. During her undergraduate year at MIT, she was made aware of a backlog of Pap smear results for women in Nicaragua. She created a prototype of a device that could be attached to camera phone and capture images of cell slides and automatically detect a high probability of cervical cancer. Upon learning of the challenge that visually impaired women faced when taking a pregnancy test, she developed a computer vision smartphone app that can take pictures of pregnancy tests and vibrate the phone once or twice depending on the result. Abramson was awarded \$5,000 from MIT's Sandbox Innovation Fund to develop the app.

Abramson is the president of the Women of Whiting at The Johns Hopkins

University — an organization of graduate student and postdoc women and allies in STEM. She oversees the annual Women in STEM symposium, which has attracted over 200 participants each year. Abramson also volunteers with the Girls Coding Club through Johns Hopkins and teaches programming skills in Python to 4-6 grade girls at a local school in Baltimore city; she helps lead the Jewish Graduate Student Association; and she is an active volunteer food packer with Meals on Wheels.



Jenifer Gaver
*Registered Nurse
The Johns Hopkins
Hospital*

Gaver, a registered nurse in the emergency department, and is a strong advocate for women's health. She is knowledgeable in her field of emergency medicine and always takes the time with her patients to answer their questions and help ease their fears. Gaver treats patients with dignity and respect takes the time to fully explain medical issues in a manner that the patient can understand. Additionally, she understands the diverse community that Johns Hopkins serves — with respect for its many cultures and traditions.

Gaver has volunteered for several years at Moveable Feasts, a Baltimore-based nonprofit that combats food insecurity and chronic illness by preparing and delivering medically tailored meals to people in the community. She is a strong advocate for women and marginalized communities, and participates in annual fundraising projects for Moveable Feasts. Her efforts through volunteering and fundraising greatly contribute to the lives of those in need. She also promotes proper nutrition to sustain healthy lives and health equity.



Stacey Goldsamt
*Director of
Development
Suburban Hospital*

Stacey Goldsamt is a powerful advocate for self-care and the well-being of women in health care. She regularly volunteers with Suburban Hospital's RISE (Resiliency in Stressful Event) program as a peer responder, helping employees through mental health crises brought on by challenging events at work and at home. She advocates for changes in the work environment that will improve the culture and the lives of employees.

In the community, Goldsamt volunteers with Montgomery County Road Runners as a coach. In this role, she encourages women to pursue their running and fitness goals while balancing life and training. She regularly checks in with participants and other women in the community, ensuring that they are sleeping, eating and taking personal time for themselves. Her encouragement and support has been described as instrumental by those she's helped navigate career changes and other life decisions.