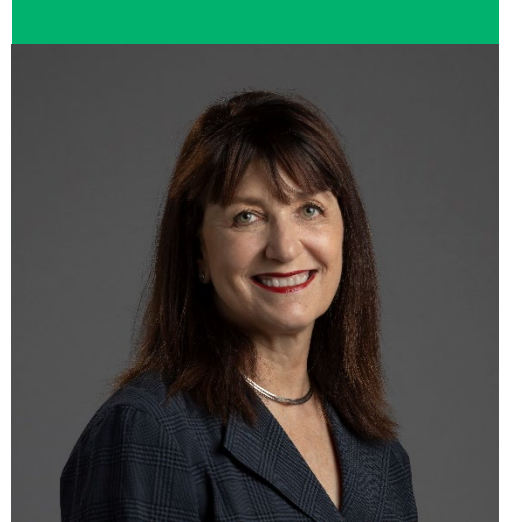


Madeleine Ullman Shalowitz, MD, MBA, FAAP

James A. Hunter, MD, University Professor



Advancement of Medicine

In 2023, we advanced our overarching agenda: to disrupt the intergenerational impact of trauma by treating the main cause of severe maternal morbidity in the child's first year — maternal mental health — specifically, post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

I lead research work that aims to better understand the personal and neighborhood characteristics that impact whether an individual will be able to take advantage of psychotherapy for PTSD. That is, for whom treatment will have the greatest impact.

Drawing on the World Health Organization's model of health disparities and using a combination of community partner guidance, individual interviews and geospatial science, we have submitted a proposal to the National Institutes of Health, or NIH, to conduct a clinical trial of Narrative Exposure Therapy with pregnant women, adding a deep understanding of the different types of neighborhoods in which they live.

The impact of this work will shine a light on structural racism, lead to more targeted case management for individuals, and guide specific funding and public policy interventions. Our most recent set of NIH reviews revealed no weaknesses in Significance, Impact and Innovation. The reviewers suggested a few modifications in the study design, which we are addressing. We are optimistic about our planned resubmission.

Research

Support from the James A Hunter, MD, endowment has been instrumental in allowing me the time to develop community partnerships and devote myself to research proposal writing, while fulfilling the needs of being division lead in Community Behavioral Health.



Grants

Only two years after beginning our efforts, we are at the tipping point for achieving federal research funding. In context, we have reached this point in excellent time, especially given the impact of COVID-19 in the community we serve and on our efforts.

Publication Highlights — Abbreviated

- “Community teens' COVID-19 experience: Implications for engagement moving forward,” *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings*, 2023.
- “Parental preconception posttraumatic stress symptoms and maternal prenatal inflammation prospectively predict shorter telomere length in children,” *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 2023.
- “Parental determinants associated with early growth after the first year of life by race and ethnicity,” *Frontiers in Pediatrics*, 2023.
- “Childhood family stress modifies the association between perinatal stressful life events and depressive symptoms,” *Journal of Family Psychology*, 2023.
- “What predicts interdependence with family? The relative contributions of ethnicity/race and social class,” *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 2023.
- “Preconception maternal posttraumatic stress and child negative affectivity: Prospectively evaluating the intergenerational impact of trauma,” *Developmental Psychopathology*, 2023.
- “Maternal early life stress is associated with pro-inflammatory processes during pregnancy,” *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*, 2023.

The Year Ahead: 2024 and Beyond

Given the challenges of serving the health care needs that institutions currently face nationally, we will be adjusting the balance of our work to emphasize funding for services, as the turnaround time for service grants is much quicker than for federal research funding. We will continue to deepen our experiences in partnership with the community while submitting a mixture of research and service funding proposals.



With Gratitude

I cannot adequately express my appreciation for your support through the James A Hunter, MD, endowment. The heartfelt investment of Dr. Hunter's family and friends is making my work possible. I will continue to honor his legacy through enduring contributions to Rush's mission of improving the health of individuals in the communities we serve.