

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FOR APPLICATION YEAR: 2026

PROJECT TITLE: Improving Access to Cervical Cancer Screening: HPV Self-Testing on the Hamilton County 513Relief Bus (IMPACT 513)

Leeya F. Pinder, MD, MPH
College of Medicine
231 Albert Sabin Way, Suite 4410
Cincinnati, OH 45202
pinderl@ucmail.uc.edu
513-55801332

Project Description

IMPACT-513 is a community-centered cervical cancer prevention project designed to make screening more accessible for people who face barriers to traditional healthcare. The project brings HPV self-collection—an FDA-approved screening method—directly into neighborhoods using the Hamilton County 513Relief Bus. This mobile service unit offers free social and health services across Cincinnati. By meeting people where they are, IMPACT-513 aims to increase early detection and reduce long-standing health inequities.

An essential component of this project is the creation of culturally tailored educational materials that explain cervical cancer, HPV, and self-collection in ways that are understandable, relevant, and empowering for diverse communities. These materials have been developed in partnership with community advisors, local health educators, and patient navigators who deeply understand community needs. This project is significant because it directly addresses preventable cervical cancer deaths by expanding access to screening and partnering with trusted community networks to improve health equity.

Role of the UPRISE Student:

The UPRISE student will be a valued member of the research team and play a meaningful role in implementing a real-world public health initiative. Their contributions may include:

- Conducting literature reviews on HPV testing, mobile screening units, and health education
- Helping draft, pilot, and refine surveys for patients and community partners
- Assisting with qualitative coding of interviews and open-ended feedback
- Supporting the modification of culturally tailored educational materials
- Organizing project data, assisting with REDCap, and maintaining

documentation

- Creating simple graphics and summaries to track implementation outcomes (reach, adoption, feasibility)

Skills and Mentorship:

The student will gain hands-on experience in community-engaged research, survey design, qualitative analysis, health communication, and implementation science. They will also learn to collaborate within a multidisciplinary team that includes researchers, clinicians, community partners, and patient navigators. The student will receive regular mentorship from Dr. Pinder and day-to-day support from our research and project management team, along with opportunities for goal setting, skill-building, and professional development.

Who Should Apply:

No prior research experience is required. Students who are curious, detail-oriented, strong communicators, and comfortable working with both people and data will be especially successful in this role. This project is ideal for students interested in public health, medicine, women's health, cancer prevention, community engagement, social science research, or health equity.