

Staff updates and achievements

Michelle Meyer, PhD, JD, published in *Science* magazine

Dr. Meyer, from the Behavioral Insights Team, weighs in on the ethics surrounding the development of vaccines for COVID-19 and other diseases outside of the usual board review and regulatory processes.

[Read full article here](#)

Congratulations to MBA recipient Aalpen Patel, MD

In a virtual ceremony held early last fall, Dr. Patel not only received his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree through Geisinger's on-site program, administered through the University of Scranton, he was also given the Award of Excellence for obtaining the highest GPA in the graduating class and the Leadership Award for being selected as the student with the highest leadership potential. Well done, Dr. Patel!

Ryan Van Loan's first novel available at Amazon

Our own Ryan Van Loan, Director of Product Management and Product Innovation, is now a published author. *The Sin in the Steel* is a sparkling debut fantasy set in a diverse world, featuring dead gods, a pirate queen, shapeshifting mages and a Sherlockian teenager determined to upend her society. It's been described as "Pirates of the Caribbean meets Guy Ritchie's Sherlock Holmes." Definitely worth checking out!

[Get your copy today](#)

Phreesia acquires the Family Caregiver and MedTrue applications

Two web-based workflow applications, co-developed by Geisinger Steele Institute and Merck, have been acquired by the nation's largest patient intake platform.

The Family Caregiver app facilitates two-way communication and coordination of care for oncology patients and their caregivers. MedTrue™ integrates different medication data sources to assist with medication reconciliation and adherence. Both applications are embedded within the electronic health record.

[Read news release here](#)

Improving critical value notification through secure texting

A recent article in the *Journal of Pathology Informatics* authored by Anatomic & Clinical Pathology Specialist Terrance Lynn, MD, and Division Chief of Clinical Pathology and Informatics and Quality Jordan Olson, MD, highlights an application developed by Application Developer Lead Greg Snyder and his team to improve communication between clinical providers and our laboratory. The application uses secure text messaging to communicate critical values faster than the pages we used to rely on — resulting in more efficient and effective patient care.

[Read full article here](#)

Geisinger's use of Quick Base mentioned in *InfoWorld*

In an article spotlighting seven low-code platforms developers can use to create applications quickly, *InfoWorld* magazine covered Steele Institute's use of Quick Base to develop an operational application to reassign employees at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read full article here](#)

Stage 2 finalists in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Health Outcomes Challenge

Steele Institute's AI solution designed to reduce adverse events and avoidable hospital readmissions by empowering clinicians and patients has made them one of seven Stage 2 finalists in this exciting competition. Congratulations to David Vawdrey and team for this exciting work.

Mom+ program now extends to the NICU



The Steele Institute for Health Innovation designed the Mom+ program to screen new and soon-to-be mothers for postpartum depression using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS), a validated 10-item questionnaire.

Mothers are screened at their initial obstetrician visits and at their 28-week and 34-week prenatal checkups. If all goes well, screenings continue at their 6-week and 1-year postpartum visits as well as at their child's regular pediatric appointments for up to a year.

Michele Neff-Bulger, DO, was involved with the program since its inception and noted a care gap when it came to mothers whose babies were in the NICU — a group at particularly high-risk for depression. Because these women were not yet bringing their children to pediatric appointments, they weren't receiving the regular Mom+ screenings.

Thanks to the efforts of Chris Seiler, MBA, Jason Socrates and Cory Siegrist, MBA, the Mom+ outpatient model has been translated into

the NICU workflow at Geisinger Medical Center. Moms are now screened 30 days post-delivery and every 30 days thereafter through the first year.

Kristi Swigart, who performs the Mom+ screenings in the NICU, says that in the first month of the program 8 mothers were screened, and half were referred to women's behavioral health. "All these women had infants who were either critical or had been in the NICU for more than 30 days," she explains. "Some said they knew they were

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Mom+ program now extends to the NICU *(continued)*

depressed but were too focused on the baby to ask for help. The screening was their chance to get the help they needed.”

“Bringing the Mom+ program to the NICU has only been possible because of the extra workload taken

on by Kristi Swigart and Shawna Mensinger, RN, our NICU nurse care manager, who receives the warm hand-off of those who score at risk,” says Dr. Neff-Bulger. “Screening for postpartum depression in a NICU is not a national standard.

We’re on the forefront. And since early detection and treatment of postpartum depression improves bonding and family and infant outcomes, I think it’s one of the most important initiatives happening here at this time.”

Contact tracing keeps everyone safer



Steele Institute is encouraging all Pennsylvania residents to download and use the COVID Alert PA smartphone app launched last month by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The app, which is free to download and available for Apple and Android devices, alerts users if they’ve been exposed to someone who’s tested positive for COVID-19. Users who receive an exposure alert can choose whether they want to get a call from a contact tracer and can track their symptoms through the app.

The app’s alert system uses anonymous Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology and an exposure notification system designed by Apple and Google. No personal or location information is collected.

“Contact tracing is one of the most effective ways to slow the spread of COVID-19,” said Karen Murphy, PhD, Geisinger’s chief innovation officer. “The COVID Alert PA app quickly notifies users who may have been exposed to COVID-19, preventing outbreaks and keeping our communities safe.”

For more information, visit pa.gov/covid/covid-alert-pa.

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