

# Cash Transfers for Low-Income Preterm Infants

---

## Destiny Uwawuike

**BA Candidate, Class of 2025**  
**University of Pennsylvania**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Andi Duncan  
SUMR Mentor: Elizabeth Salazar, MD, MSHP



# Agenda

- 1. Project 1: Understanding Stressors of Families of Preterm Infants**
- 2. Project 2: Cash Transfers for Low-Income Infants & Families: A Scoping Review**
- 3. Lessons Learned**

# Background:

## ◆ Significance:

- Worse preterm infant outcomes are experienced by families of color and low-income families
  - many of these disparities are rooted in economic disadvantage
    - only one study has analyzed the impact of unrestricted cash support to low-income families of preterm infants

## **Project 1**

# **UNDERSTANDING STRESSORS OF FAMILIES OF PRETERM INFANTS**

# Purpose:

## Objective:

The purpose of this pilot study is to understand the impact of monthly, unconditional cash transfers on family experiences for preterm infants.

# Study Design

- ◆ **Aim 1: assessing the feasibility and acceptability of cash transfer randomization over a 4-month period**
  - 24 low-income caregivers of preterm infants hospitalized in the HUP NICU are randomized to receive either \$325 or \$25/month
  
- ◆ **Aim 2: examining caregivers' lived experiences caring for preterm infant & the impact of the cash transfers**
  - Invite to participate in surveys & interviews

# Recruitment Process

- ◆ **1. Introduce yourself and the study**
- ◆ **2. Confirm eligibility**
- ◆ **3. IRB Consent Form**
- ◆ **4. Collect contact information & complete baseline survey**
- ◆ **5. Randomization**
- ◆ **6. Cash Transfer Consent Form**
- ◆ **7. Benefits Webinar**

# Future Plans:

- ◆ **Finish recruiting all 24 patients**
- ◆ **Analysis of early data**



**PROJECT 2:**

# **Cash Transfers for Low-Income Infants & Families: A Scoping Review**

## Objective:

**To summarize the literature on cash transfers and their impact on low-income infants and their families.**

# Methods:

**covidence** Cash Transfer Systematic Review Search studies ? D

## Review Summary

[Settings](#) [PRISMA](#) [Export](#)

@ Your email address on record is not verified. Please visit [your profile](#) to confirm your details.

∨ Import references 1383 total duplicates removed [Import](#)

∧ Title and abstract screening 319 irrelevant 0 studies to screen

TEAM PROGRESS

347	DONE	102	CONFLICTS
1227	ONE VOTE	0	NO VOTES

[Team settings](#)

**DESTINY ,  
YOU CAN STILL**

RESOLVE

102

[Resolve conflicts](#)

▬ You've screened **1676** studies so far

∨ Full text review 0 excluded 28 studies to screen

[Need help?](#)

# Future Plans:

- ◆ **Abstract data from the fully screened articles & analyze**
- ◆ **Write and publish scoping review!**

# Lessons Learned

## ◆ **Project 1: Cash Transfer Study**

- How to interact with families
- How to recruit patients

## ◆ **Project 2: Scoping Review**

- How to screen abstracts based on inclusion/exclusion criteria

## ◆ **NICU Shadowing Experience**

- Participated in patient rounding
- Observed premature complications
- Interacted with residents, nurses, nurse practitioners, & more!
- What it's like to be a neonatologist

# Thank You!

## ◆ Research Mentors:

- Elizabeth Salazar, MD, MSHP
- Timothy Nelin, MD
- Zoe Bouchelle, MD
- Sydney Ragland, BS
- Joanne Levy, MBA, MCP, Penn LDI
- Chinwe Nwadiogbu, MLA
- SUMR 2023 Cohort



# Questions?