

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Megan H. Bair-Merritt

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): mbairme1

POSITION TITLE: Professor of Pediatrics

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Completion Date	FIELD OF STUDY
Tufts University, Medford, MA	BA	05/1994	Child Development
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC	MD	05/2000	Medicine
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA	Residency	06/2003	Pediatrics
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA	Fellowship	06/2006	Academic Pediatrics
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA	MSCE	05/2006	Epidemiology

A. Personal Statement

My research and training experience position me well to serve as Subcontract Principal Investigator on the proposed project. As a practicing pediatrician and health services researcher, I have conducted social epidemiology research for over 10 years, spanning my tenure as an Academic General Pediatrics fellow through my current work as a Professor of Pediatrics and Interim Division Chief of Academic General Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center. My work has focused on the context of teen dating violence, screening for and intervening with intimate partner violence (IPV) in the health care setting, and exploring the impact of exposure to IPV on child health. In 2006, after completion of my fellowship, I joined the faculty in the Division of General Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins and was awarded a K23 Career Development Award from NICHD. With >85 peer-reviewed publications and continuous funding from federal (NIH, NIJ, MCHB) and foundation grants as PI, I have extensive experience successfully completing studies of varied design including large randomized clinical trials and prospective cohort studies enrolling and following disadvantaged and at-risk families. I have built a strong network of partnerships with colleagues, developed and organized research protocols (including protocols related to collecting sensitive data), conducted rigorous analyses, supervised staff, and disseminated results through publications and presentations. Dr. Matson (Principal Investigator) and I have in the past served as Multi-PI on two NIJ-funded grants following cohorts of urban, primarily Black girls, using daily diary methodology.

1. Zuckerman B & **Bair-Merritt MH**. Silent Victims: An Epidemic of Traumatized Children. *Huffington Post* 3/5/2013; http://www.huffingtonpost.com/barry-zuckerman-md/domestic-abuse-mental-illness_b_2783487.html.
2. Cruz M, **Bair-Merritt MH**. Screening and Intervention for Intimate Partner Violence: A Practical Approach; *Contemporary Pediatrics*. May 2013.

B. Positions and Honors**Positions and Employment**

2004 - 2006 Instructor of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
 2006 - Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
 2011 - 2013 Co-Director of Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
 2011 - 2013 Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
 2013 - 2019 Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine
 2013 - Director, Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship, Boston Medical Center

2013 - Associate Division Chief of General Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center
2019 - Professor of Pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine

Honors

1994 Magna Cum Laude, Tufts University
1999 Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Medical Honor Society, UNC-CH
2000 Medical Degree with Honors, UNC-CH
2005 & 2007 National Institute of Health Loan Repayment Recipient

C. Contributions to Science

1. IPV screening within health care settings

My early research work focused on screening for IPV within health care settings including adult and pediatric primary care. A 2004 United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) report gave IPV screening an "I" rating, stating that there was "insufficient evidence to recommend for or against routine screening." Research that I led subsequent to this report established effective methods of screening within pediatric settings and synthesized existing validated screening instruments. My publications were cited in critical policy pieces and clinical guidelines including the Institute of Medicine's consensus report *Clinical Preventive Services for Women: Closing the Gaps*, the World Health Organization's *Guidelines for Prevention and Clinical Intervention for Female Survivors of IPV*. In 2013, fueled by these critical policy pieces and clinical guidelines and by accumulating evidence supporting the benefits of IPV screening, the USPSTF revised their recommendations for IPV screening to a "B" rating.

- a) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Mollen C, Yau PL, Fein JA. Impact of domestic violence posters on female caregivers' opinions about domestic violence screening and disclosure in a pediatric emergency department. *Pediatr Emerg Care*. 2006;22(11):689-93. PMID: 17110858
- b) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Feudtner C, Mollen CJ, Winters S, Blackstone M, Fein JA. Screening for intimate partner violence using an audiotape questionnaire: a randomized clinical trial in a pediatric emergency department. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*. 2006;160(3):311-6. PMID: 16520452
- c) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Jennings J, Eaker K, Levsky J, Park SM, Cheng TL. Screening for domestic violence and childhood exposure in families seeking care at an urban pediatric clinic. *J Pediatr*. 2008;152(5):734-6, 736.e1. PMID: 18410785
- d) Rabin R, Jennings J, Campbell J and **Bair-Merritt MH**. Intimate partner violence screening tools: a systematic review. *Am J Prev Med*. 2009;36(5):439-45.e4. PMID: PMC2688958

2. Impact of IPV on children's physical health and health care use

Few researchers have studied the impact of IPV on children's physical health and health care use. I therefore designed and implemented a series of studies that explored how maternal IPV affected children's well-child care, immunizations, ED use, and asthma expression. I conducted the first systematic review on the impact of IPV on children's physical health and health care use, which demonstrated the significant need for exploration in this area; this review has been extensively cited (published in 2006; 121 citations). Results from this body of work are informing the role of the pediatrician in caring for children exposed to IPV, emphasizing the physiological impact of early exposure to stressors and associated medical needs.

- a) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Blackstone M, Feudtner C. Physical health outcomes of childhood exposure to intimate partner violence: a systematic review. *Pediatrics*. 2006;117(2):e278-90. PMID: 16452335
- b) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Crowne SA, Burrell L, Caldera D, Cheng TL, Duggan AK. Impact of intimate partner violence on children's well-child care and medical home. *Pediatrics*. 2008;121(3):e473-80. PMID: 18310168
- c) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Johnson SB, Okelo S, Page G. Intimate partner violence exposure, salivary cortisol and childhood asthma. *Child Abuse Negl*. 2012;36(7-8):596-601. PMID: 3424283
- d) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Voegtline K, Ghazarian SR, Granger DA, Blair C, FLP Investigators, Johnson SB. Maternal intimate partner violence exposure, child cortisol reactivity and child asthma. *Child Abuse Negl*. 2015;48:50-7. PMID: PMC4446253

3. Systematic evaluation of IPV interventions

Although IPV screening and brief counseling are recommended in health care settings, the most effective interventions to support women and children have not been clearly delineated. I directed efforts to systematically evaluate existing interventions, and to establish new paradigms of care that support families experiencing adversity. This work is continuing with my funded R40 from MCHB, in which we are examining

amongst a sample of impoverished families the impact of the Purposeful Parenting brief intervention integrated into well child visits during the first year of life on positive parent-child interactions.

- a) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Jennings JM, Chen RS, Burrell L, McFarlane M, Fuddy L, Duggan AK. Reducing maternal intimate partner violence after the birth of a child: a randomized controlled trial of the Hawaii Healthy Start Home Visitation Program. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med.* 2010;164(1):16-23. PMID: PMC2825025
- b) **Bair Merritt MH**, Lewis-O'Connor A, Goel S, Amato P, Ismaili T, Jelley M, Lenahan P, Cronholm P. Primary care-based interventions for intimate partner violence: a systematic review; *Am J Prev Med.* 2014;46(2):188-94. PMID: 24439354
- c) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Mandal M, Garg A, Cheng T. Addressing psychosocial adversity within the patient-centered medical home: expert-created measurable standards. *J Prim Prev.* 2015;36(4):213-25. PMID: PMC4827699

4. Patterns of IPV and differing motivations and consequences

IPV is a complex construct, but most literature focused on the impact of childhood exposure operationalizes IPV as present/absent. Work conducted during my NICHD-funded K23 explored IPV more deeply, including motivations for women's use of violence, and patterns of IPV over time. I conceptualized these studies, conducted interviews, assembled relevant existing literature, and worked with colleagues to design analyses using rigorous methods. My results demonstrated that patterns of IPV exist (based on type of IPV), and that the motivations and consequences of women's use of IPV likely differ from men's use of IPV.

- a) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Holmes J, Holmes W, Feinstein J, Feudtner C. Does intimate partner violence epidemiology differ between homes with and without children? A population-based study of annual prevalence and associated risk factors. *Journal of Family Violence.* 2008;23(5):325-32.
- b) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Crowne SS, Thompson DA, Sibinga E, Trent M, Campbell J. Why do women use intimate partner violence? A systematic review of women's motivations. *Trauma Violence Abuse.* 2010;11(4):178-89. PMID: PMC2994556
- c) **Bair-Merritt MH**, Ghazarian SR, Burrell L, Duggan AK. Patterns of intimate partner violence in mothers at-risk for child maltreatment. *J Fam Violence.* 2012;27(4):287-94. PMID: PMC3430145

5. Human trafficking

Within samples of children affected by violence, victims of sex trafficking are perhaps the most vulnerable. This research area is nascent. Conduct of research with trafficked youth involves thoughtful development of safety protocols, and careful consideration about the conduct of ethical research amongst this vulnerable group. I have joined efforts with Dr. Emily Rothman to begin exploration in this area. I served as a guest editor on a special edition of the *Journal of Applied Research on Children*, focused on child sex trafficking.

- a) Rothman E, Bazzi AR, **Bair-Merritt MH**. ["I'll do whatever as long as you keep telling me that I'm important": A case study illustrating the link between adolescent dating violence and sex trafficking victimization.](#) *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk* 2015. Volume 6 (1); available at <http://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/childrenatrisk/vol6/iss1/8>
- b) Rothman E, Decker M, **Bair-Merritt MH**. Trafficking and domestic violence: Where are we and where are we going. *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk* 2014; Vol. 6: Iss. 1, Article 1. Available at: <http://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/childrenatrisk/vol6/iss1/1>

Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/megan.bair-merritt.1/bibliography/41149740/public/?sort=date&direction=ascending>

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

Ongoing Research Support

2U54TR001430-05A1 (Center, PI; Bair Merritt, MPI; Saitz, MPI), 04/01/2020-03/31/2025
NCATS/NIH

Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)

The Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute (BU CTSI) is dedicated to improving public health by providing BU researchers with tools, training, and resources. Our institute brings faculty, trainees, and community partners together to strengthen and facilitate the translational process of clinical innovation.

2017-VA0CX-0030 (R01-equivalent; Bair-Merritt) 01/01/2018-12/31/2021

National Institute of Justice

Healthy Adolescent Relationship Trajectories Study

The goal of this daily diary study is to explore the balance of positive relationship qualities and TDV.

Role: multi-PI (with Matson)

Selected Completed Research Support

15154-BMC (Bair-Merritt)

09/01/2019-08/31/2021

PCORI

Creating a Collaborative Comparative Effectiveness Research Agenda for Adolescents with Autism
The goal of this study is to create a CER research agenda related to health risk behaviors in autistic adolescents.

1R21 AA027844-01A1 (Rothman)

12/01/2019-06/30/2021

National Institutes of Health

Underage alcohol use in a sample of youth with autism spectrum disorder: An exploratory study

The goal is to explore underage alcohol use among youth with autism.

Role: co-I

T0BHP29986 (Silverstein)

07/01/2016-06/30/2021

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Primary Care Training Enhancement Grant

The goal of this training grant is to prepare primary care providers to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

Role: Co-Investigator

2016-NIH-CS-0006 (R01 equivalent; Rothman)

01/01/2017-12/31/2020

National Institute of Justice

Development of a New Measure of Adolescent Dating Aggression: National Norms

The goal is to create a validated measure of dating aggression for diverse youth.

Role: co-I

2T32HS022242 (Bair-Merritt)

07/01/2018-06/01/2020

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Training in Health Services Research for Vulnerable Populations

The goal of this T32 is to prepare the next generation of health service researchers.

Role: PI/Project Director (note: transitioned PD role to a colleague)

R40MC28315-01-00 (R01-equivalent Bair-Merritt)

04/01/2015-03/31/2019

Maternal Child Health Bureau

Purposeful Parenting: Enhanced Anticipatory Guidance for the First Year of Life

The goal is to test whether an intervention within a child's first year of life improves parent-child interactions.

Role: PI

HHSP233201500034I (Scott)

09/30/2017-9/29/2019

Administration of Children and Families

Approaches to Addressing Intimate Partner Violence Among Fathers

The goal of this study is to explore how Responsible Fatherhood programs include IPV content

Role: co-I

2014-R2-CX-0005 (R01 equivalent; Rothman)

01/01/2015-12/31/2018

National Institute of Justice

Evaluation of a Service Provision Program for Victims of Sex Trafficking

This grant evaluated My Life My Choice, a promising community based intervention for trafficked children.

Role: Co-Investigator

2013-VA-CX-0003 (R01 equivalent; Bair-Merritt)

01/01/2014-12/31/2018

National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

The Dynamic Context of Teen Dating Violence in Adolescent Romantic Relationships

This award explored predictors and correlates of teen dating violence among a sample of adolescent girls.

Role: multi-PI (Matson)

2013-VA-CX-0001 (R01 equivalent; Rothman)

01/01/2014-12/31/2018

National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

A Brief Intervention to Prevent Adolescent Dating Aggression Perpetration

This award tested the efficacy of a brief motivational interview-style intervention to prevent TDV perpetration.

Role: Co-Investigator