



Factors Associated with Mortality from Severe Sepsis in the Medical Intensive Care Unit **Katelyn Roberts (NURS 2018)**

Advisor: Nuala Meyer

During the summer, I worked in the division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care at HUP under Dr. Nuala Meyer. Her research focuses on outcomes of sepsis in the MICU and I was involved in several different aspects of this research project. Throughout the summer, I helped collect patient information and extract it from medical records in order to be used in the MESSI (Molecular Epidemiology of Severe Sepsis in the ICU) study. I had to extract chronic health history and medications, as well as the acute physiology of patients' sepsis. I became very familiar with many patient databases, including Sunrise, Medview, and OnBase, which is especially helpful for me as a nursing student since I will be using these programs throughout my remaining years at Penn. In addition, Dr. Meyer focuses on ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome), since it is often associated with sepsis. Chest x-rays are needed to determine if a patient has ARDS, so I was taught how to interpret chest x-rays. I also learned how to perform CAM-ICUs on patients in the MICU. These assessments are to assess delirium in critically ill patients because delirium is an important risk factor in sepsis outcomes. Towards the end of my summer, the research study was beginning to transition databases from Oracle to RedCap, so I was involved in helping to give feedback on the development of the new system. I worked with many patients' data and suggested what could be improved to make the data entry process more streamlined and efficient.

As part of my PURM experience, I was also able to sit in on intern meetings that current interns and fourth year medical students attend twice per week. During these meetings they discussed interesting patient cases, and I was able to listen to specialists teach interns and medical students about many varying medical problems. Furthermore, I attended a few lectures related to sepsis for current physicians as part of a summer lecture series at HUP.

I am grateful for this opportunity to be introduced to research at HUP, and I learned so much through my experience. Although I am not able to continue with this project in the fall, I hope I am able to continue working in research while at Penn.