

Sarah Miller, FULD Fellow Cohort II



The Rapid Access to Tertiary Care project's aim is to investigate barriers within the current patient transfer system between Johns Hopkins and referral hospitals on a clinical, financial and operational level. The future goal is to implement a more centralized network among all departments involved to improve patient transfers at Lifeline, Johns Hopkins' intra and inter-facility transport department. Under the mentorship of Scott Newton, I observed operations and recorded process flow data in each of these departments that facilitate patient transfers. I also discussed barriers with the staff. My future work in the project will focus on organizational consensus and buy-in among the departments as changes will be made to improve the system.

I am a BSN candidate for December 2013. I graduated from Lehigh University in 2009 with a degree in Biology. I began my clinical track out of college as an EMT and still volunteer at a rescue squad back home in Bethesda, MD. I also worked as an Emergency Room Scribe where I documented patient histories for ER physicians and provided comfort for patients and their families. During nursing school, I also work as a nursing student technician on an Intensive Care Unit.

It became apparent very early in my clinical career that many clinicians practice based on tradition instead of evidence-based practices. With the increasing complexity of healthcare and influx of new medical research, it is essential to translate the data into evidence-based practices at the patient's bedside. The Fuld Fellowship has given me the opportunity to understand the safety and quality barriers within our current system, and provided the tools to improve healthcare through an interdisciplinary approach.

My lifetime goal is to develop interdisciplinary approaches that improve our healthcare system. I want to work with a multidisciplinary team to create initiatives that promote teamwork and collaboration among all departments from physicians to environmental services that will improve the quality of care to patients and their families.