



**Dartmouth**  
GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT of  
EPIDEMIOLOGY

# "Heart function during active labor in pregnancy and evaluation for endovascular dysfunction"

**Epi Seminar Series**  
**COBRE Research In Progress**  
**with**  
**Leigh Hickerson, MD (She/Her/Hers)**



Dr. Hickerson is an assistant professor of cardiac anesthesiology who helped develop and serves on the Cardio-obstetric Specialty Care service at Dartmouth Health. She also developed a cardio-obstetric patient registry for tracking outcomes in the health systems. She is passionate about cardio-obstetric maternal care and improving maternal cardiovascular outcomes. Maternal mortality rates in the United States are at a thirty-year high and 50% higher than Western Europe. Despite multiple task force initiatives aimed at screening, cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of maternal death. This study aims to use labor as a physiologic stress test to identify cardiovascular pathology and endovascular dysfunction at a subclinical level. A combination of echocardiographic analysis, serum and placental biomarkers may allow for early detection of subclinical heart and vascular disease. This seminar will present preliminary echocardiographic findings including strain analysis data. It will also provide an update on biologic sample acquisition progress and a plan for placental tissue analysis.



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**Join on Zoom**

**10/4/23 @ 12/Noon**