



Dorene F. Balmer, PhD

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Dr. Dorene F. Balmer is Professor and Distinguished Endowed Chair in the Department of Pediatrics at Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania (UPenn); she is Co-director of Research on Pediatric Education at The Children's Hospital Philadelphia (CHOP).

Dr. Balmer's first career was in neonatal nutrition at CHOP. Mesmerized by the clinical learning environment, she did her doctoral work at Temple University, her post-doc at UPenn and then launched her faculty at Columbia University's College of Physician and Surgeons. She returned to UPenn in 2015, and in her current role, supports faculty and trainees in their pursuit of educational scholarship. She provides direct consultation and mentorship for qualitative research methodology for projects ranging from NIH-funded research to single-site, department-funded studies. She also provides direct consultation and mentorship for large-scale program evaluation of projects funded by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Balmer's independent research agenda focuses on identity work and career construction. She has pioneered a longitudinal qualitative approach to research in medical education, in which she follows individuals (e.g., trainees, clinical educators) for more than a decade. Dr. Balmer is a past recipient of the Academic Pediatric Associations' Ray Helfer Award for Innovation in Pediatric Education and Association for Medical Education in Europe Research Paper Award. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and is currently writing a book about, based on her longitudinal research.