Nita Mukand
Comments on ALA Mode Project Proposal

Dear ALA Mode,

Praise:
- Great job on formulating a interesting research question and identifying a database to answer it!
- MEPS is not used extensively so you may be able to publish your findings.

Advice:
- In 2017 MEPS changed its measurement instrument and 2018 onwards is not comparable to previous years. Have you considered using 2017 data as this will allow you to conduct analysis on time trends?
- When using receipt of a pap smear within the past five years as the determinant of success for your outcome is it important to consider that patient age at initiation of screening is partly dependent on age at initiation of sexual activity. Guidelines for cervical cancer screening may also recommend against screening in older women. You may want to discuss age as an exclusion factor with a clinician.
- Could consider adding other social determinants of health that may be available in the data beyond race/ethnicity and income.

Concerns:
- MEPS uses a complex weighted survey design to address sampling and missing data. Do you plan on incorporating the survey weights?
- You may want to focus on predicting *failure* as identifying factors associated with non-adherence can facilitate public health interventions to target at-risk populations.