

ANDREW R. OLENSKI

Columbia University
Department of Economics
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027

andrew.olenski@columbia.edu
www.andrewolenski.com

Placement Chairs: Suresh Naidu sn2430@columbia.edu
 Sandra Black sb4338@columbia.edu
Placement Assistant: Amy Devine aed2152@columbia.edu

REFERENCES

Pietro Tebaldi (Co-Sponsor)
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Columbia University
pt2571@columbia.edu

Ashley Swanson (Co-Sponsor)
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin – Madison
ashley.swanson@wisc.edu

Gautam Gowrisankaran
Professor
Department of Economics
Columbia University
gg2840@columbia.edu

Adam Sacarny
Assistant Professor
Department of Health Policy & Management
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
ajs2102@columbia.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied microeconomics, industrial organization, health economics

EDUCATION

Columbia University, Ph.D. Economics, 2023 (expected)
Fields: industrial organization, public finance

George Washington University, B.S. Economics, 2015 *summa cum laude*

JOB MARKET PAPER

Reallocation and the (In)efficiency of Exit in the U.S. Nursing Home Industry

Abstract: I examine the role of firm exits in generating welfare-improving reallocations. Using administrative data on the universe of nursing home patients, I estimate the mortality effects of 1,109 nursing home closures for current residents using a matched difference-in-differences approach. I find that displaced residents face a short-run 15.1% relative increase in their mortality risk. This sharp increase is offset by long-run survival improvements, such that the cumulative effect inclusive of the initial spike is a net decline in mortality risk. I document evidence that this is driven by reallocation to higher quality providers, measured by deficiency inspections. These survival gains accrue only to residents in competitive nursing home markets. Residents in areas with limited alternatives to long-term care experience no long-run survival improvement. To examine the policy relevance of these findings, I estimate a dynamic model of the nursing home industry with endogenous exit. Using the model, I conduct two reimbursement policy experiments to avert nursing home closures. A universal 10% increase in the Medicaid rate decreases the frequency of closures, but has the consequence that some low-quality providers remain open in competitive areas. In contrast, a targeted subsidy for facilities in areas with limited access to care improves overall mortality by averting the costliest nursing home closures.

WORKING PAPERS

1. **Olenski A**, Sacher S. “Estimating Nursing Home Quality with Selection.” *Under Review*.

Abstract: We estimate a Bayesian model of nursing home quality using variational inference. We then conduct three exercises. First, we examine the correlates of quality, finding that public report cards have near-zero correlation. Second, we show that higher quality nursing homes fared better during the pandemic: a one standard deviation increase in quality corresponds to 2.4% fewer Covid-19 cases. Finally, we show that a 10% increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate raises quality, leading to a 1.85 percentage point increase in 90-day survival. Such a reform would be highly cost-effective even under conservative estimates of the quality-adjusted statistical value of life.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Research in Economics

1. Barnett M, **Olenski A**, Sacarny A. “Common Practice: Spillovers from Medicare on Private Health Care,” NBER Working Paper No. 27270. Forthcoming at *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

Research in Health Policy

1. Jena AB, Khullar D, Ho O, **Olenski A**, Blumenthal D. “Sex differences in academic rank in U.S. medical schools in 2014,” *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* 314(11), pp. 1149-1158, 2015.
2. **Olenski A**, Abola M, Jena AB. “Do heads of government age more quickly? An observational study comparing mortality between elected leaders and runners-up in national elections of 17 countries,” *British Medical Journal (BMJ)* 351:h6424, 2015.
3. Jena AB, **Olenski A**, Blumenthal D. “Sex differences in physician salary in U.S. public medical schools,” *JAMA: Internal Medicine* 176(9), pp. 1294-1304, 2016.
4. Barnett M, **Olenski A**, Jena AB. “Opioid-prescribing patterns of emergency physicians and risk of long-term use,” *New England Journal of Medicine* 376(7), pp. 663-673, 2017.
– Best Published Research Paper of the Year Award, *Society of General Internal Medicine*, 2018
5. Barnett M, **Olenski A**, Jena AB. “Patient mortality during unannounced accreditation surveys at US hospitals,” *JAMA: Internal Medicine* 177(5), pp. 1-9, 2017.
6. Jena AB, Mann NC, Wedlund LN, **Olenski A**. “Delays in emergency care and mortality during major U.S. marathons,” *New England Journal of Medicine* 376(15), pp. 1441-1450, 2017.
7. Khullar D, Blumenthal D, **Olenski A**, Jena AB. “U.S. immigration policy and American medical research - the scientific contributions of foreign medical graduates,” *Annals of Internal Medicine* 167(7), pp. 584-586, 2017.
8. Blumenthal DM, **Olenski A**, Tsugawa Y, Jena AB. “Association between treatment by locum tenens internal medicine physicians and 30-day mortality among hospitalized Medicare beneficiaries,” *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* 318(21), pp. 2119-2129, 2017.
9. Jena AB, **Olenski A**, Molitor D, Miller N. “Association between rainfall and diagnoses of joint or back pain: retrospective claims analysis,” *British Medical Journal (BMJ)* 359:j5326, 2017.
10. Blumenthal D, **Olenski A**, Yeh R, DeFaria-Yeh D, Sarma A, Stefanescu-Schmidt A, Wood M, Jena AB. “Sex differences in academic rank among cardiologists at U.S. medical schools in 2014,” *Circulation* 135(6), pp. 506-517, 2017.
11. Jena AB, **Olenski A**. “Reductions in firearm injuries during NRA annual conventions,” *New England Journal of Medicine* 378:866-867, 2018.

12. Jena AB, **Olenski A**, Blumenthal DM, Yeh RW, Goldman DP, Romley J. “Acute myocardial infarction mortality during dates of national interventional cardiology meetings,” *Journal of the American Heart Association* 117:e008230, 2018.
13. Jena AB, **Olenski A**, Khullar D, Bonica A, Rosenthal H. “Physicians’ political preferences and the delivery of end of life care in the United States,” *British Medical Journal (BMJ)* 361:k1161, 2018.
14. Barnett M, **Olenski A**, Thygeson M, Ishisaka D, Wong S, Jena AB, Mehrotra A. “A Health Plan’s Formulary Led to Reduced Use of Extended-Release Opioids, But Did Not Lower Overall Opioid Use,” *Health Affairs* 37(9), pp. 1509-1516, 2018.
15. Sacarny A, **Olenski A**, Barnett M. “Association of Quetiapine Overuse Letters With Prescribing by Physician Peers of Targeted Recipients,” *JAMA Psychiatry* 76(6), pp. E1-2, 2019.
16. **Olenski A**, Coussens S, Zimmerman A, Jena AB. “Behavioral Heuristics in Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery,” *New England Journal of Medicine* 382:8, 2020.
17. Ly D, Essien U, **Olenski A**, Jena AB. “Affirmative Action Bans and Enrollment of Students from Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Groups in U.S. Public Medical Schools,” *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2022.

OTHER WRITING

1. “Trump’s immigration order could make it harder to find a psychiatrist or pediatrician” *FiveThirtyEight*, 02/03/2017.
2. “When clinicians know they’re being watched, patients fare better” *Harvard Business Review*, 03/24/2017.
3. “When roads are closed for marathons, more elderly people die of heart attacks” *Harvard Business Review*, 04/12/2017.
4. “Substitute doctors are becoming more common. What do we know about their quality of care?” *Harvard Business Review*, 12/11/2017.
5. “How common mental shortcuts can cause major physician errors” *The New York Times*, 02/20/2020.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Best Abstract Award, Health Economics Group, AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting 2022
 – For *Reallocation and the (In)efficiency of Exit in the U.S. Nursing Home Industry*

Vickrey Prize for Best Third Year Paper, Runner-up, 2020

Harriss Prize for Best Second Year Paper, Runner-up, 2019

NBER Health Economics Bootcamp, 2019

Outstanding Reviewer Award, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2018, 2019

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2018

Dean’s Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2017

Special Honors in Economics, Department of Economics, George Washington University, 2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for *Econometrica*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Academic Emergency Medicine*

TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Industrial Organization (undergraduate), Econometrics (undergraduate)

PRESENTATIONS

2022: American Society of Health Economists

RELEVANT POSITIONS

Research Assistant, Adam Sacarny, Ph.D.

Department of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University, 2018-2019

Research Assistant, Anupam Bapu Jena, M.D./Ph.D.

Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard University, 2015-2017

Research Assistant, Graciela Kaminsky, Ph.D.

Department of Economics, George Washington University, 2014-2015

Research Intern, Matthew Fiedler, Ph.D.

Council of Economic Advisers, The White House, 2013-2014

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

1. Do heads of government age more quickly? Observational study comparing mortality between elected leaders and runners-up in national elections of 17 countries, *The BMJ* 2015. Reported by New York Times, Washington Post, STAT, Reuters, Associated Press, The Atlantic, NPR, Vox.
2. Sex differences in academic rank in US medical schools in 2014, *JAMA* 2015. Reported by NPR, Reuters, US News and World Report.
3. Sex differences in physician salary in U.S. public medical schools, *JAMA: Internal Medicine* 2016. Reported by New York Times, Washington Post, Associated Press, Bloomberg News, Reuters, TIME.
4. Opioid-Prescribing Patterns of Emergency Physicians and Risk of Long-Term Use, *New England Journal of Medicine* 2017. Reported by New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Philadelphia Inquirer, Associated Press, Reuters, NPR, STAT, Vox, TIME.
5. Patient mortality during unannounced accreditation surveys at US hospitals, *JAMA: Internal Medicine* 2017. Reported by New York Times, Reuters, NPR, STAT.
6. Delays in emergency care and mortality during major U.S. marathons, *New England Journal of Medicine* 2017. Reported by New York Times, Wall Street Journal, CNN, Reuters, Associated Press, The Atlantic, NPR, STAT, Boston Globe, Philadelphia Inquirer, NBC, USA Today, TIME.
7. Association Between Treatment by Locum Tenens Internal Medicine Physicians and 30-Day Mortality Among Hospitalized Medicare Beneficiaries, *JAMA* 2017. Reported by U.S. News and World Report, Reuters, STAT News.
8. Reductions in firearm injuries during NRA annual conventions, *New England Journal of Medicine* 2018. Reported by Scientific American, TIME, Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Vox, ABC, New York Magazine, Gizmodo, CNN, Philadelphia Inquirer, Bloomberg Business, US News and World Report, Reuters.
9. Behavioral heuristics in coronary artery bypass graft surgery, *New England Journal of Medicine* 2020. Reported by New York Times, STAT, Forbes, Associated Press.

MISCELLANEOUS

U.S. Citizen