Benjamin A. Berger

(717) 602-2420 · b.a.berger.94@gmail.com

Education

The University of Miami Bachelors in Economics and Mathematical Economics, Class of 2016
Cumulative GPA: 3.92/4.00 · Magna Cum Laude · President's Honor Roll · Dickinson Scholarship

- Completed graduate macro and microeconomics as an undergraduate, placing at the top of both courses.
- 4.00 Mathematical Economics major GPA.

The London School of Economics International Summer Program, 2014

Relevant Employment

National Bureau of Economic Research and Harvard Kennedy School (2016 - Present)
Research Assistant for Professor Amitabh Chandra

- Securely accessed confidential Medicare claims data to implement risk-adjustment models and non-parametric survival models, documenting significant survival disadvantage among African-Americans at medium-to-long time horizons after occurrence of myocardial infarction.
- Constructed a dataset of all FDA drug approvals since 2006 including data on key regulatory designations intended to expedite the pharmaceutical development pipeline and firm-level financial data.
  - Employed web scraping algorithms to automatically extract and structure data from drug approval letters on the FDA's *Drugs@FDA* database.
- Collaborated with Harvard Business School professor Ariel Stern to characterize the precision medicine development pipeline by creating a dataset of all registered clinical trials and identifying those that probabilistically meet the criteria of precision medicine trials.
- Prepared discussion materials for an HKS speaking event featuring then-FDA Commissioner Robert Califf and moderated by Dr. Chandra.

University of Miami Department of Economics (2014 - 2016)
Research Assistant for Professor Chris Parmeter

- Developed R source code to construct a table of congressional earmark spending, U.S. legislators, and campaign contributions for the 111th Congress.

International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) (2015)
Research Intern

- Reconstructed ICSC's Country Fact Sheet tables for implementation in the revamped QuickStats database.
- Documented Spring 2015 retail openings and closings from an archive of Google Alerts to be published in U.S. Retail Real Estate Supply Conditions, a quarterly publication on the state of the retail real estate industry.

Publications

Research Assistant

- Amitabh Chandra, Craig Garthwaite, and Ariel Dora Stern. *"Characterizing the Drug Development Pipeline for Precision Medicines"* NBER Working Paper. 2017.
- Amitabh Chandra, Jennifer Kao, and Ariel Dora Stern. *"Regulatory Incentives for Pharmaceutical Innovation: the FDA's Breakthrough Therapy Designation"* Research in Progress.

Technical Advisor

- Kyle David, Phillip Tanabe, and Lynne A. Fieber. *"Resource Availability Drives Mating Role Selection in a Simultaneous Hermaphrodite Aplysia californica"* The Biological Bulletin 231, no. 3 (2016): 199-206.

Technical Experience

Econometric modeling
Working experience with linear regression, discrete choice models, IV regression, panel analysis, survival models, autoregressive models, regression discontinuity, machine learning.

Programming languages
R, Stata, Python, Shiny, SQL, Linux shell scripting, LaTeX.

Domain-specific expertise
Commercial and Medicare claims data, FDA regulatory pipeline, Cortellis pharmaceutical data