GIOVANNI VAN EMPEL

gvanempel.github.io
Centre for Health Economics, Monash University
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EDUCATION

Monash University, Australia *2024 (expected)*
PhD in Health Economics

Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia *2018*
Medical Doctor (MD.)

University of York, UK *2015*
MSc. in Health Economics (with Distinction)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Development Economics, Labour Economics

RESEARCH

Publications

Does quality affect choice of family physician? Evidence from patients changing general practice without changing their address (with Hugh Gravelle and Rita Santos) **Economic Modelling, September 2023**

Undertesting of COVID-19 in Indonesia: what has gone wrong? (with Joko Mulyanto, Bayu Wiratama) **Journal of Global Health, December 2020**

Working Papers

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy using Local Ambassadors: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Rural Indonesia (with Armand Sim, Asad Islam, Gita Kusnadi, Jahen Rezki, Michael Vlassopoulos, and Yves Zenou) *IZA Discussion Paper 15899*, (**Conditional acceptance : European Economic Review**)

Provider responses to market entry under competing health technologies (with Daniel Avdic, Nils Gutacker and Johan Vikström)

Radiating influence? Spillover effects among physicians (with Daniel Avdic, Umair Khalil, and Johannes Kunz) **[JOB MARKET PAPER]**

TEACHING

Health Economics (HEC5980) *Postgraduate level* *2023, 2022, 2021*
Teaching evaluation : Exceeding expectations (very high)

Health Economics for Medical Students (MED4100) *Undergraduate level* *2022, 2021, 2020*

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2022, J-PAL SEA-LPEM RCT Fund, with Armand Sim , Asad Islam, and Jahen Rezki (US$39,000)

2022, Monash Business School: Purple Letter of Teaching Achievement (HEC5970)

2020, BPJS National Health Insurance Research Fund, with Jarir At-Thobari, Firdaus Hafidz (US$40,000)

2020-present, Monash International Tuition Scholarship

2020-present, Monash Graduate Scholarship

2019, 2nd Asian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics Travel Grant

2017, iHEA World Congress Travel Grant

CONFERENCE AND VISITING EXPERIENCE

Short-term research visit
Aug 2023, University of Duisburg-Essen (Host : A/Prof Daniel Kühnle)
Sep 2023, University of Bologna (Host : A/Prof Pietro Biroli)

Presentations

2023
Applied Young Economist Webinar (AYEW), Econometric Society Australasian Meeting, 25th Labour Econometrics Workshop (LEW), CINCH-Essen, EuHEA PhD Conference, 30th European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics, Asian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics, Manila (Scheduled)

2022
ANU Postgraduate Workshop (accepted, not presented)

2021
Melbourne Institute Brown Bag, UK Health Economics Study Group (UK HESG), University of York (Health, Econometrics, and Data Group), iHEA World Congress, Australian Health Economics Society (AHES)

2019
2nd Asian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics

2017
iHEA World Congress

JOURNAL REFEREEING

Social Science and Medicine (Economics section)

REFERENCE

1. **A/Prof Daniel Avdic**
Department of Economics, Deakin University, Australia
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2. **Dr. Umair Khalil**
Department of Economics, Deakin University, Australia
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3. **Dr. Johannes Kunz**
Centre for Health Economics, Monash University, Australia
johannes.kunz@monash.edu

4. **Prof. Luigi Siciliani**
Department of Economics, University of York, UK
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Radiating influence? Spillover effects among physicians (with Daniel Avdic, Umair Khalil, and Johannes Kunz) *Draft available upon request*

Abstract

We study peer spillovers in healthcare by exploring how cardiologists' diagnostic skill is influenced by their work peers' use of radiation when assessing blockages in the heart's vessels. To overcome identification challenges, we use rich clinical quality data from Sweden to instrument peers' average weekly radiation output with the plausibly exogenous arrival of emergency cases they treated in previous weeks. Our empirical estimates imply that focal cardiologists change their own radiation output by 0.5 standard deviations for each standard deviation change in their peers' output. We show that our results are not driven by endogenous peer formation or patient selection, and that effects are stronger in academic hospitals and among younger cardiologists. Estimated peer effects are welfare-enhancing through improving the share of patients who are diagnosed within the recommended radiation dosage range and by reducing subsequent mortality risk.

Provider responses to market entry under competing health technologies (with Daniel Avdic, Nils Gutacker and Johan Vikstrom) *Draft available upon request*

Abstract

We study whether multi-technology healthcare providers respond to market entry of specialized single-technology competitors by inducing demand for legacy health technologies. To this end, we use the relaxation of regulatory restrictions in cardiac care in Sweden that led to a rapid expansion in the number of hospitals providing catheter-based treatment only. To establish causality, we exploit a feature of the Swedish healthcare system that restricts patient choice of healthcare providers, allowing providers considerable discretion in allocating patients to treatments. Relating observed treatments of residents in catchment areas where hospitals opened a catheter lab to residents in unaffected catchment areas, we find that patients with clinical indications for cardiac surgery were 10 percent more likely to receive catheter-based treatment after their local hospital opened a catheter lab. In contrast, we find no evidence that incumbent hospitals reduced their use of catheter treatment on their remaining patient population to offset reductions in surgical volume. We conclude that the lack of response to market entry among incumbent providers likely contributed to the swift technological change in the clinical management of acute coronary syndrome in the 2000s.

Promoting Vaccination Take-up at the Last Mile: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Rural Indonesia (with Armand Sim, Asad Islam, Gita Kusnadi, Jahen Rezki, Michael Vlassopoulos, and Yves Zenou) *Conditional acceptance : European Economic Review*

Abstract

In settings where resistance and rampant misinformation against vaccines exist, the prospect of containing infectious diseases remains a challenge. Can delivery of information regarding the benefits of vaccination through personal home visits by local ambassadors increase vaccine uptake? We conduct a door-to-door randomized information campaign targeted towards COVID-19 unvaccinated individuals in rural Indonesia. We recruited ambassadors from local villages tasked to deliver information about COVID-19 vaccines and promote vaccination through one-on-one meetings, using an interpersonal behavioral change communication approach. To investigate which type of ambassador—health cadres, influential individuals, and laypersons—is the most effective, we randomly vary the type of ambassador that delivers the information at the village level. We find that the overall vaccination take-up is quite moderate and that there are no differences in vaccination outcomes across the treatment groups. These results highlight the challenge of boosting vaccine uptake in late stages of a pandemic.