

Jason Chen

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Placement Chairs:

Mark Dean (md3405@columbia.edu)
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Education

Columbia University

Ph.D. in Economics

M.Phil. in Economics

M.A. in Economics

2020 – Present
(expected May 2026)

2024

2022

University of California, Berkeley

B.A. in Computer Science and Economics (*High Distinction*)

2016 – 2020

Fields of Specialization

Health Economics, Labor Economics, Industrial Organization, Business Economics

Job Market Paper

Quality and Location Choice of Immigrant Doctors

Doctor shortages are a widespread and growing concern in the healthcare systems of many developed countries, including in the United States. Allowing for immigration of working doctors is a common policy in such by which to expand doctor supply. In the US however, such immigration is bottle-necked by licensing requirements that require domestic retraining, ostensibly due to quality concerns. I study the quality of domestic vs. immigrant emergency medicine doctors in the US. I find quality *premiums* associated with care provided by immigrant doctors, both within a given hospital and across the entire distribution of ER doctors. Notably, I do not find such quality premiums for US citizen medical students educated abroad. I also find immigrant doctors are significantly more likely to work in locations with worse patient outcomes and in designated health provider shortage areas. Estimates of doctor location preferences suggest that this affinity cannot be explained by initial location or vertical matching. My results imply that current licensing restrictions on doctor immigrants are too strict, and policies allowing for alternative licensing pathways for doctor immigrants could alleviate doctor shortages in the areas of greatest need at no cost to healthcare quality.

Work in Progress

1. Congestion and Demand for College Majors

Research and Work Experience

Research assistant for Prof. Cristobal Otero, Columbia Business School	2024
Research assistant for Prof. Chris Moser, Columbia Business School	2022
Research assistant for Prof. Jonas Hjort, Columbia Business School	2021
Research assistant for Profs. Patrick Kline and Chris Walters, UC Berkeley	2019-2020
Research assistant for Prof. Stefano Dellavigna, UC Berkeley	2018-2020
Part-time consultant at Lexington Partners, LLC	2025

Teaching

TA for Intro to Economics	Summer 2024
TA for Econometrics I (MA)	Fall 2023
TA for Microeconomic Analysis II (MA)	Spring 2023

Awards and Fellowships

Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University	2025
Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University	2020-2024
Phi Beta Kappa	2020

Skills and Bio

Programming: Python, R, Julia, SQL, Java
Software: Stata, LaTeX, PySpark
Languages: English (native), Chinese
Citizenship: United States
Gender: Male

References

Gautam Gowrisankaran Professor of Economics Columbia University gg2840@columbia.edu	Jonah Rockoff Paul Garrett Professor of Public Policy and Business Responsibility Columbia Business School jr2331@gsb.columbia.edu	Cristobal Otero Assistant Professor of Eco- nomics Columbia Business School c.otero@columbia.edu
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