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As an applied researcher working to design, implement, and evaluate behavioral science solutions to complex social problems, I would be thrilled to serve as Managing Director of the Nudge Unit. I have six years of experience leading large-scale RCT-evaluations and managing teams in an interdisciplinary research lab and 10 years of experience with survey and experimental research, network analysis, and machine learning.

As a Research Assistant Professor at UPenn, I have been extremely successful at winning highly competitive research grants from both federal and private donors. In February, terminations cancelled more than \$2.5 million in committed federal funding for my projects, including a prestigious [Minerva grant](#). I have set down roots in Philadelphia and at UPenn and planned for it to be a permanent home. Joining the Nudge Unit would allow me to keep my family in place while serving in a role that is well-suited to my interests and skills.

Since moving to UPenn in 2022, I have won nearly \$3.5 million in funding as PI or co-PI from the U.S. Department of Defense, Agency for International Development, and Open Society Foundations. Most recently, I was awarded a Minerva grant to support [interdisciplinary research](#) with faculty in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department to model the impact of climate change on adaptation, conflict, and migration.

At PDRI-DevLab, I have managed multiple externally funded projects, carrying them from conceptualization through design, implementation, evaluation, and the dissemination of results to the scientific and policy communities. I currently manage a team of three full-time data scientists and engineers, six predoctoral fellows, one PhD student, and a large pool of undergraduate research assistants. I have experience establishing long-term collaborations with public and private sector partners, communicating technical material to policy audiences, and evaluating behavioral interventions across diverse subject-matters and contexts.

I am passionate about communicating evidence, and have given invited talks to hundreds of policymakers and stakeholders across more than a dozen agencies in five countries. I also designed and teach a [course on data science and causal inference for global development students](#) and have years of experience working with UPenn's IRB to secure approval for research on highly sensitive topics involving vulnerable populations.

As a post-doctoral researcher at Duke, I co-founded a high-profile project leveraging recent advances in big data and machine learning to forecast political instability for a public-facing [early warning system](#). I led the construction of a research infrastructure to continually update a large, highly multilingual media corpus and use fine-tuned transformer models to extract information from text. My lab used this data to publish more than a dozen commissioned policy reports, develop public-facing data dashboards averaging 150 hours of monthly active usage time, and attracted 1,200 unique users from 73 countries over a 10 month period, with more than 800 policymakers and civil society groups signing up to receive our monthly reports.

As a Senior Research Associate and Research Assistant Professor, I led experimental research that directly informed policy decisions. Working with the US Mission to Cambodia, I designed an RCT evaluation of a major program to improve the financial capacity of non-profits working

as U.S. government partners. The evaluation provided rigorous evidence that the program was failing to accomplish its goals and resulted in program's cancellation. To my knowledge, this was the first RCT evaluation of an NGO capacity-building intervention and employed sophisticated randomization procedures to maximize statistical power in small samples.

In another project, I worked with the Agency for International Development to design a conjoint survey experiment answering important questions about the strategic behavior of non-profits receiving U.S. support to work in highly repressive countries. The findings informed the agency's approach to soliciting grant proposals from local partners. In Ethiopia, I identified and recruited partners in Ethiopian civil society to co-design and rigorously evaluate an intervention to increase civic engagement and social cohesion in highly polarized settings. This [project](#) resulted in a highly effective intervention that our partners are working to scale across the country.

I would be honored to serve the Nudge Unit's mission of using nudges to improve medical decision-making and patient outcomes. While my recent research has not addressed topics in the medical field, my dissertation focused on measuring the impact of health interventions on a range of health and political outcomes and I have covered public health and nudge interventions extensively in my courses. I would be eager to immerse myself in the medical research field, and my past experience lends itself to designing and testing behavioral interventions in an interdisciplinary context.