MARIA DIECI

Mobile +1 (404) 626 8491
Email: dieci@berkeley.edu
mariadieci.com

Division of Health Policy and Management
UC Berkeley School of Public Health
2121 Berkeley Way, # 5302
Berkeley, CA 94720

EDUCATION

Ph.D.   University of California, Berkeley
             Health Policy (concentration in Health Economics), expected May 2022
             Committee: William H. Dow (chair), Paul J. Gertler, Lia C.H. Fernald, Jonathan Kolstad

             Economics: Health Economics, Development Economics
             Global Health Policy: Maternal and Child Health, Quality of Care, Health Workforce

M.A.   University of California, Berkeley, Economics (concurrent), 2019
             Minor Fields: Development and Labor Economics

B.A.   Harvard University, Social Studies, *magna cum laude,* 2013
             Senior Thesis: "Rights within Reach: Implementing Maternal Health Care Rights for Colombia's Displaced Women"

PUBLICATIONS

- **Dieci, Maria**, Zachary Wagner, Willa Friedman, Sarah Burgess, Jessica Vandermark, Sandra I. McCoy, Manisha Shah, and William H. Dow. "Measuring Family Planning Provider Bias: A Discrete Choice Experiment among Burkinabé, Pakistani, and Tanzanian Providers." *Studies in Family Planning* 52, no. 3 (2021): 299-320. link
- **Dieci, Maria**, Juan J. Llibre-Rodriguez, Daisy Acosta, and William H. Dow. "Cuba's cardiovascular risk factors: International comparison of levels and education gradients." *Plos one* 16, no. 3 (2021): e0247831. link
- Rosen, Daniel, Jessica Vernon, Rachel Silverman, Elizabeth Juma, **Maria Dieci**, and Prashant Yadav. "Malaria Case Management After the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria (AMFm): Availability, Quality, and Market Share for ACTs in Kenya's Private Pharmacies," Center for Global Development Working Paper Series 561 (2020). link

DISSERTATION

Patient vs. provider incentives for malaria care in Kenyan pharmacies: A cluster randomized controlled trial

Health policy aims to ensure that patients are able to access high quality care when appropriate and prevent patients from consuming unnecessary treatments. Achieving this balance requires coordination between patients and providers, which can be hindered if incentives are misaligned. I study how

coordination between patients and pharmacists in the context of malaria case management is affected by financial incentives. I test whether demand- or supply-side incentives for rapid tests and high quality antimalarials only to malaria-positive cases improve malaria case management and align incentives towards socially-optimal antimalarial use. Using a cluster randomized trial design in 140 pharmacies in malaria-endemic zones in Kenya, I randomize patient discounts and pharmacist performance incentives and compare their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness to the status quo standard of care. In preliminary analyses, I find that both patient subsidies and pharmacy incentives for diagnostic testing significantly increase usage of testing and may nudge malaria positive individuals to purchase high quality antimalarials. Data collection is ongoing until early 2022, and analysis is in progress. These early results suggest that appropriately calibrated and targeted financial incentives are promising for improving coordination between patients and providers, with implications for quality of care.

OTHER SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

- Impact evaluation of pharmacy-based incentives for long acting contraception on women's access to family planning in Kenya. *Funding obtained.*
- Impact of early life shocks on child health and cognition outcomes in Madagascar, focus on understanding changes in parental health investments
- Process evaluation of group-adaptation of early child development intervention in Madagascar. *Data collection in progress, with Lia C.H. Fernald, Emanuela Galasso, Ann Weber, Caitlin Hemlock, and Lisy Ratsifandrihamanana.*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH
2015-2016   Senior Research Associate, Innovations for Poverty Action, Zambia
2013-2015   Research Analyst for Prof. Dean Karlan (Yale), Innovations for Poverty Action

TEACHING
2018-2021   Teaching Assistant, Division of Health Policy and Management, UC Berkeley
                        Health Economics (undergraduate/graduate), Fall 2018, Fall 2019
                              Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award
                        Economic Evaluation and Population Health (graduate, online), Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2021

SERVICE
2017 – 2021   Division of Health Policy and Management, UC Berkeley
                        Executive Committee (2018-2021)
                        Graduate Admissions Committee (Fall 2017, Fall 2018)
2020-2021   Berkeley Economists for Equity
                        Finance Officer
                        Diversity in Admissions Officer

REFEREEING   *Studies in Family Planning*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2021   Center for Global Development and Maisha Meds "New Approaches to Improve Malaria Case Management in the Private Sector" convening, UC Berkeley Development Economics Lunch Seminar Series

2020   PAA Annual Meeting (cancelled due to COVID-19); Society for Research in Child Development; UC Berkeley Development Economics Lunch Seminar Series

2019   AHRQ Trainee Conference; Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) Evidence to Action Conference; UC Berkeley Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging Workshop; PAA Annual Meeting

2018   Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting; American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Conference; International Health Economics Association (iHEA) World Congress

2017   Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Trainee Conference

2014   Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference

GRANTS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Co-Principal Investigator on Children's Investment Fund Foundation grant for project "Increasing access to contraceptive choice through targeted incentives: a cluster randomized controlled trial.", with Paul Gertler. ($250,000 USD, 2021-2022)
- Co-Principal Investigator on United States Agency for International Development, Development Impact Ventures Stage II Award # 7200AA18FA00009 for project "A Digital Approach for Targeted Malaria Treatment", with Paul Gertler, Jonathan Kolstad and Jessica Vernon. ($400,000 USD, 2019-2022)
- Co-Principal Investigator on Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation award for project "A Digital Approach for Targeted Malaria Treatment", with Paul Gertler, Jonathan Kolstad and Jessica Vernon. ($320,392 USD, 2019-2022)
- UC Berkeley School of Public Health Alumni Association Award (2018-2021)
- Trainee on Agency for Healthcare and Research Quality (AHRQ) T-32 Fellowship (2018-2019)
- Trainee on National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) T-32 Fellowship (2016-2018)

OTHER INFORMATION

Languages   English (native), Italian (native), Spanish (professional), French (proficient)

Programming   Stata, R, Python, Open Data Kit, LaTeX, ArcGIS, SQL, Matlab