Last Updated: February 11, 2025

Contact Email: shruthivenkatesh.proj@gmail.com **Information** Website: shruthi-venkatesh.github.io

Citizenship United States

Education Ph.D., Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University, 2024

Dissertation: *Three Essays on the Economics of Health Care* Committee: Martin Gaynor (Chair), Anh Nguyen, Maryam Saeedi

A.B., Economics, The University of Chicago, 2013 A.B., Sociology, The University of Chicago, 2013

Employment Economist, U.S. Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C., 2024-present

Publications "The Anatomy of a Hospital System Merger: The Patient Did Not Respond Well to Treatment"

with Martin Gaynor, Adam Sacarny, Raffaella Sadun, and Chad Syverson. The Review of Economics

and Statistics, 2023

Working Papers

"The Effects of Physician Practice Acquisitions on Hospital Competition" (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: Consolidation between hospitals and physician practices is a ubiquitous feature of health care markets across the US. This paper examines the impacts of hospital-physician practice acquisition on physician referrals, hospital prices, and welfare using detailed administrative claims data from the Massachusetts APCD. I find that the effects of acquisitions vary substantially across large and small hospital systems in the state. Among small and mid-size hospitals, acquisition leads to a 20 percentage point increase in within-system referral rates and a 6 - 20% increase in hospital prices. In contrast, physician practices acquired by a dominant hospital neither meaningfully shift referrals nor raise negotiated hospital prices. I then develop a bargaining model of competition and use the estimates to evaluate the effects of changes in physician practice ownership. The model demonstrates how changes in referral demand due to practice consolidation enhances the bargaining leverage of the acquiring hospital system. I then simulate the hospital acquisition of every physician practice in the state, and I find that hospital prices counterfactually would increase by .72 percent or nearly \$200 per admission, though effects are larger across non-dominant firms. Higher payments to hospitals decrease insurer surplus by 19% or approximately \$18,000 per enrollee. Patient welfare declines by 22%, or \$185 per individual, due to shifts in physician referrals post-acquisition.

"Impact of Increasing Hospital Price Transparency: Collusion, Search, and Equilibrium Price", with Elena Prager, Maryam Saeedi and Robert Town

Work in Progress

"The Effect of Hospital-Physician Integration on Medicare Referrals,"

gress Media coverage: Wall Street Journal

"Medical Malpractice Reform and Ob-gyn Entry: Evidence from Texas"

Awards & Grants

2021-2024: The Commonwealth Fund - The Impact of Physician Practice Acquisitions on Hospital

Competition, PI: Martin Gaynor, \$186,800

2019: Carnegie Mellon University Small Grant Award

2015-2016: Presidential Fellowship, Carnegie Mellon University 2009-2013: National Merit Scholarship, The University of Chicago

Presentations

2024: Federal Trade Commission; Department of Justice; Office of Tax Analysis, U.S. Department of Treasury; Abt Associates; University of Massachusetts-Amherst; International Industrial Organization Conference (IIOC); American Society of Health Economists Conference (ASHEcon)

2023: UCSB Health Innovation Working Group 2022: American Society of Health Economists Conference

2021: Association of Public Policy and Management Student Seminar Series

2020: Pittsburgh Health Economics Workshop , American Society of Health Economists Conference (postponed due to COVID19)

2019: NBER Health Economics Bootcamp, American Society of Health Economists Conference*, American Association of Public Policy and Management*

2017: International Health Economics Association

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University

PhD Econometric Theory and Methods II (PhD), 2017-2020; Intermediate Economics (Masters), 2016-2020; Health Economics (Masters), 2016-2020

Teaching Assistant, The University of Chicago

Elementary Functions and Calculus I-III (Undergraduate), 2012-2013

Professional Activities

Referee for: Journal of Public Economics

References

Martin Gaynor Anh Nguyen
E.J. Barone University Professor Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Policy Economics
Carnegie Mellon University
mgaynor@cmu.edu cmu.edu
Anh Nguyen

Assistant Professor of Economics
Carnegie Mellon University
anhnguyen@cmu.edu

Maryam Saeedi Assistant Professor of Economics Carnegie Mellon University msaeedi@andrew.cmu.edu

^{*} indicates discussant