IVAN N. BADINSKI

Personal Information

Address:	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Economics 50 Memorial Drive Cambridge, MA 02142
E-mail:	badinski@mit.edu
Phone:	(631)609-5756

Research Areas

Public Finance, Labor Economics, Health Economics

Education

2015-present	Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Primary Advisors: Amy Finkelstein & Heidi Williams
2010-2014	B.A. in Economics and Philosophy, Williams College Summa Cum Laude, Valedictorian [GPA: 4.09]

Research in Progress

"Sources of Institutional Influence on Prescription Patterns: Evidence from Physicians Practicing in Multiple Hospitals"

"Growing Old, Growing Up: Physician Demographics, Technological Diffusion, and Healthcare Costs"

"To Live or Leave Here: Health Professional Shortage Areas and the Local Supply of Physicians"

Completed Coursework

Fall 2015	Microeconomic Theory I, Microeconomic Theory II, Statistical Methods in Economics, Dynamic Optimization Methods, Economic Growth, Labor Economics I (Term GPA 4.9/5)
Spring 2016	Microeconomic Theory III, Microeconomic Theory IV, Econometrics, Economic Fluctuations, Applied Econometrics, Economic Crises, Labor Economics II (Term GPA 5/5)
Fall 2016	Industrial Organization I, Nonlinear Econometric Analysis, Public Economics I, Labor Economics I, Development Economics: Micro Issues (Term GPA 5/5)
Spring 2017	Industrial Organization II, Advanced Topics in Industrial Organization, New Econometric Methods, Public Economics II, Public Policy in Health Economics, Labor Economics II (Term GPA 5/5)

Positions

2017 – present	Research Assistant to Professors Amy Finkelstein and Heidi Williams (MIT). Project

	studying the determinants of cross-regional variation in healthcare expenditures
2016 – 2017	Research Assistant to Professor Heidi Williams (MIT). Project studying the the impact of patent-generated rents on US firms and workers
2014 – 2015	Analyst at Analysis Group, Inc. Cases of bidding manipulation, derivatives position damages litigation, and bankruptcy proceedings in the US tri-party repo market
2013	Williams College Investment Office Intern. Analysis of geographic exposure, asset class exposure and leverage, as well as independent research on crowd funding
2012 – 2013	Research Assistant to Professor Steven Nafziger (Williams College). Project on the long term causes and consequences of Russian serfdom
2011 – 2014	Teaching Assistant, Williams College Economics Dept: Introductory Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Advanced Econometrics, and Advanced Microeconomics

Selected Honors and Awards

2014	Carl Van Duyne Prize for Senior Honors Theses, Williams College
2014	Arthur B. Graves Essay Prize in Economics, Williams College
2014	Jack Learned, Class of 1942, International Management Prize, Williams College
2014	John Miller Prize in Philosophy, Williams College
2013	James P. Baxter III Honor Scholarship, Williams College
2013	Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Williams College Chapter President

Technical Skills

Stata, SAS, R, Python, MATLAB

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Amy Finkelstein
John & Jennie S. MacDonald Professor of Economics

MIT Department of Economics
Building E52-442

77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone (617) 253 4149
Fax (617) 253 1330
Email afink@mit.edu
http://econ-www.mit.edu/faculty/afink/

September 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing with the greatest enthusiasm to recommend **Ivan Badinski** to the NBER's "Health Economics Research Boot Camp". Ivan is a 4th year PhD student in the MIT Economics Department. He is being jointly advised by myself and Heidi Williams. He took both my graduate public finance class and Heidi's graduate health economics class, and excelled in both.

Ivan is an extremely bright, intellectual curious, and promising graduate student. (He is also an extraordinarily nice and generous human being). In his third year in graduate school he worked as an RA for my and Heidi on a project (joint with Matt Gentzkow and Peter Hull) examining the role of physicians in affecting healthcare utilization and spending. The project uses the rich Medicare claims data and studies what happens both when physicians move across areas and patients move across areas to identify the relative roles of the physician vs. the patient (vs. the rest of the health care environment) in affecting healthcare decisions, with a particular focus on the role of matching of patient and physician within an area. We have a full time RA who has done most of the heavy lifting on the data side, while Ivan has made extremely productive progress and contribution on the econometric modeling and identification.

Ivan also wrote an excellent third year research paper – which he is now expanding into a dissertation chapter – studying the role of the health care organizations in affecting physician behavior. To investigate this, Ivan's first insight was to look at doctors who "moonlight" – i.e. work simultaneously in two different hospitals in the same market. His second insight was to identify a physician decision that is plausibly unrelated to patient characteristics (since obviously, hospitals may serve patients who differ in unobservable ways that affect physician behavior). Specifically, he examined the physician's decision to prescribe a generic vs. a branded prescription in an outpatient visit. He found evidence of an impact of the hospital: a 10-percentage point increase in the hospital's generic prescription rate is associated with about a 1percentage point increase in the probability that a patient seen in that hospital will be given the generic variant of her prescribed drug. The paper was extremely well executed and compelling, and clearly written. Having found a compelling and robust fact, he is now expanding the project both to consider other physician behaviors and investigate alternative theories of how the hospital organization may affect the physician's behavior. I am very excited to watch this progress and see what he learns.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Amy Finkelstein
John & Jennie S. MacDonald Professor of Economics

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Email afink@mit.edu
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In sum, I give him my strongest recommendation.

Sincerely,



Amy Finkelstein

IVAN N. BADINSKI
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Economics
50 Memorial Drive
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badinski@mit.edu
(631)609-5756
Recommendation Letter Writer:
Professor Amy Finkelstein, MIT

September 23, 2018

Professor Benjamin Handel
University of California, Berkeley
Professor Katherine Ho
Princeton University
Professor Jonathan Kolstad
University of California, Berkeley

Dear Professor Handel, Professor Ho, and Professor Kolstad,

My name is Ivan Badinski, and I am a fourth year PhD candidate at the MIT Department of Economics. My research interests lie at the intersection of Health Economics, Public Economics, and Labor Economics. My current work focuses on the institutional and demographic determinants of physician practice styles. My goal is to employ insights from Public Economics and Labor Economics to enhance our understanding of how physicians make treatment choices and to use those insights in improving resource allocation in the health sector.

I am interested in the Health Economics Research Bootcamp as an opportunity to gain exposure to cutting-edge research and technical tools in my field of interest and to meet and interact with other researchers who share my academic passion. I am confident that participation will help me advance my current projects and develop my research agenda, as well as serve as a foundation for future collaborative work.

Please see the attached application materials for the workshop. I would welcome a chance to participate in this event.

Sincerely,

Ivan Badinski

IVAN N. BADINSKI
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Economics
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(631)609-5756

September 23, 2018

Statement of Purpose

I am interested in the Health Economics workshop for three reasons: it is an excellent opportunity to gain exposure to cutting-edge research and intellectual ideas in my academic field of interest; it is an event that would allow me to interact with some of the current and future leaders in the field; and it is a way to learn more about some of the technical tools that I am interested in applying in my future work.

My academic interests lie at the intersection of Health Economics, Public Economics, and Labor Economics. Physician decisions and practice choices are an essential component of the US healthcare system. I want to understand the development of physician practice style and the underlying institutional and market factors that affect this development. My hope is that this understanding will allow me to work toward concrete policy proposals for a better allocation of economic resources in the health sector and improved functioning of medical markets and institutions.

My third-year paper explores the influence that hospitals exert on physician prescription choices. Using Medicare Part D prescription data in combination with Part B data on outpatient visits and prescriptions for 13 common drugs that have brand and generic equivalents, I document a positive effect of hospital generic prescription rates on individual physician prescription rates. I focus on physicians who practice in two hospitals at the same time, which allows me to control for time-invariant unobservable physician characteristics in my empirical specifications, in order to mitigate identification concerns such as the selection of physicians into hospitals. I measure hospital generic prescription intensity using physicians who only practice in that hospital in order to avoid some of the well-known perils of peer effect estimation. My estimates are robust to controlling for a rich variety of patient observable demographic characteristics and medical conditions. I further delve into the potential mechanisms behind this finding and show that the magnitude of the effect is not influenced by the amount of time the physician spends in either hospital or by the variance in the generic prescription rates of other physicians in the hospital. I am currently working on further understanding the institutional and market mechanisms behind the documented effect.

My other ongoing research seeks to measure the effect of government subsidies to physician pay through Health Professional Shortage Area designation on physician supply and the influence of physician demographics on technology adoption choices. Additionally, I have completed extensive coursework in health economics. My Public Economics classes had a pronounced focus on the development and functioning of healthcare insurance markets. My Public Policy in Health Economics class was a wide-ranging look into the most important and popular research topics in the economics of healthcare. My Industrial Organization classes built up many of the technical tools used in modern structural work in the field.

I believe that participation in the Health Economics workshop will help me greatly in advancing my current research projects and developing my broader research agenda. The work of the listed presenters has been instrumental in shedding light on the role of institutional and market forces in shaping the healthcare sector and I want to understand how these factors apply to physician behavior in particular.

Furthermore, the work of many of the presenting academics has employed advanced econometric tools such as structural estimation in answering questions of great policy interest. A significant portion of my coursework has focused on gaining structural estimation tools as applied in Industrial Organization, and I am greatly interested in applying these tools in future work. I believe that exposure to cutting-edge research that has employed similar methods will help me in doing so.

Finally, I believe that one of the most attractive parts of academic work is the opportunity to engage in intellectual exchange with like-minded individuals who are similarly interested in using the tools of economics to improve policy. The workshop will present an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with some of the current and future leaders in the field. My hope is that this will allow me to get to know my peers better and lay the foundations for productive collaborative work in the future.

The health economics workshop presents an excellent opportunity to develop my current research work and broader research agenda. It is a way to gain exposure to some of the cutting edge ideas in my field of interest and to some of the technical tools I am interested in using. Finally, it will be a way to meet and interact with my academic peers. I believe that based on my research interest, current academic work, and completed coursework, I am an excellent fit for the workshop. I will be greatly honored if given the opportunity to attend.