Eilidh Geddes

Northwestern University, Department of Economics
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October 10, 2019

Dear NBER Health Economics Boot Camp Selection Committee:

I am writing to apply to take part in this year's Health Economics Research Boot Camp for Graduate Students. I am a third year Ph.D. student in the Economics Department at Northwestern University interested in Health Economics. I have completed field coursework in the fields of Health, Industrial Organization, and Labor in addition to the first-year core curricula. Prior to beginning my Ph.D. at Northwestern, I worked as a research analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York after completing my joint Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics at the University of Georgia.

This workshop would be an excellent fit with my current research interests and would benefit me as a young researcher. Hearing leading researchers speak about their areas of expertise in the health economics literature would help me develop new questions as well as provide me with additional tools to address and refine the questions that I am currently tackling. At the moment, I am working on projects that explore how health insurance community rating area definitions affect insurer competition and how Medicaid expansion affects the health care utilization of privately insured patients. I view these research projects as fitting into a broader agenda that explores how market competition responds to government policy in health care markets.

I have attached my CV and a statement that describes my rationale for wanting to attend this workshop and my intended research agenda. In support of this application, Professor David Dranove (d-dranove@kellogg.northwestern.edu) will be submitting a letter of recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Eilidh Geddes

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, 2017 to present
Expected Completion Date: 2022
Relevant Coursework: Microeconomics I-III, Macroeconomics I-III, Intro to Econometrics I-III, Health Economics I-II, Industrial Organization I-III, Labor Economics, Cross-Sectional Methods, Advanced Econometrics, American Economic History

M.A. Economics, University of Georgia, May 2015

B.A. Economics, *B.S.* Mathematics, *summa cum laude*, University of Georgia, May 2015

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Insurer Competition and Rating Areas on the ACA Exchanges"

"Effects of Medicaid Expansion on Emergency Department Utilization of Privately Insured Patients"

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant — Aug 2018-Sep 2018
Economics Department, Northwestern University

Research Analyst — July 2015-July 2017
Capital Markets Function, Research, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Research Assistant — Aug 2014-May 2015
Economics Department, University of Georgia

Sales and Trading Summer Analyst — June 2014-July 2014
JP Morgan, New York

Research Fellow — Jan 2013-May 2013
Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Athens, GA

HONORS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	Sep 2017-Present
Northwestern University Fellowship	Sep 2017-Aug 2018
University of Georgia Foundation Fellowship	Aug 2011-May 2015
Zell Miller Scholarship Recipient	Aug 2011-May 2015
Terry Excellence Award for Achievement in Economics	May 2015

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee for *Economics of Education Review*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *International Journal of Health Economics and Management*

Conference organizing committee for *Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference* (EMCON), 2019

BLOG POSTS

Liberty Street Economics: How Resilient is the US Housing Market Now?, February 2017, joint with Andreas Fuster, Benedict Guttman-Kenney, and Andrew Haughwout

The Evolution of Home Equity Ownership, February 2017, joint with Andreas Fuster and Andrew Haughwout

Houses As ATMs No Longer, February 2017, joint with Andreas Fuster and Andrew Haughwout

COMPUTER SKILLS

Languages & Software: Stata, Matlab, Python, LaTeX

NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp Application

Eilidh Geddes

As a third year Ph.D. student in the Economics department at Northwestern University interested in health economics, the NBER health economics boot camp will benefit my academic career through additional exposure to the field of health economics, enriching my knowledge of the topics and tools that are at the research frontier. This workshop will help me further develop and refine my research agenda as well as think about how my current research questions fit within the broader literature. I am excited to hear presentations given by researchers at the forefront of their fields and interact with other graduate students who share similar interests in health economics, who could provide peer feedback on current research projects and be potential future collaborators.

My current research agenda explores how government healthcare policies affect insurance markets and how these interactions ultimately impact patient welfare. As part of this agenda, I have two ongoing projects in preliminary stages. The first examines how insurance companies respond to the geographic variation in rating areas on the ACA Marketplaces and how patients are impacted by the responses of insurance companies. Of particular interest in this project is determining what drives an insurer to exercise the option of making a partial rating area offering and what effect a partial offering then has on the market. The ultimate goal of this project is to develop an understanding of how community rating regions could be designed optimally taking into account insurer competitive responses to their design.

The second project evaluates the effects of Medicaid expansion on the ER utilization of privately insured patients in the presence of crowding. It also explores what the consequences of changes in utilization in terms of cost and patient outcomes. The ultimate goal of both projects is to further understanding of how government intervention in health care markets impacts patients. Going forward in my academic career, I hope to explore these themes further and am interested in how the various players in healthcare markets respond to government intervention.

This bootcamp would help me develop and advance my research agenda through formulating additional questions and refining my ability to answer existing questions. I hope to hear leaders in the field speak about their particular sub-areas of expertise

to see where the most exciting new research is and what they think the most interesting gaps in the literature are. This exposure could lead to potential new ideas as well as an opportunity to learn about different data sources and novel methods in the field, which in turn would assist in better answering my current research questions.

At Northwestern, I have prepared for a career as a health economist by taking field courses in Health, Industrial Organization, and Labor Economics. The Health field sequence featured sessions from many of the health care researchers in Kellogg (David Dranove, Amanda Starc, Craig Garthwaite, Ellie Prager, Christopher Ody). This program will provide me with the opportunity to build on this existing knowledge base. Going into the boot camp, I have already built a solid academic foundation in health economics and so would be able to take advantage of the opportunities that it provides.

A second main motivation for applying to this bootcamp is the opportunity to meet other graduate students with a health economics interest. It would be beneficial to talk with other students about my current research agenda and the projects that I am currently pursuing as well as learn about their projects and research ideas in return. Being able to talk about what I am working on and my plans for further work with fellow grad students will help me workshop those ideas to develop more refined research questions and may even open the door to potential future collaborations.

Moving forward in my academic career, I plan to further develop and refine my research agenda in health economics. I hope to be able to answer questions that are both interesting academically and policy relevant. I will continue work on my current research questions and seek out other ideas that push forward the research frontier in this field. The NBER health economics bootcamp will help develop the tools to do so and will make me a better researcher. Thank you for your consideration.

Northwestern | Kellogg

David Dranove
Walter McNerney Distinguished Professor of Health Management
Professor of Strategy
d-dranove@kellogg.northwestern.edu
847-491-8682

To whom it may concern,

I am delighted to recommend that you offer a spot to Eilidh Geddes in the upcoming NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp for Graduate Students. Eilidh is a third year student in the Department of Economics at Northwestern University. She took my health economics PhD sequence last year and received the highest marks in both her exams and her original research project. It is my understanding that she is regarded as among the top students in her cohort at Northwestern.

Her current research agenda focuses on the interaction between public policy and market competition in health care markets and how these interactions impact patient welfare. She has two ongoing projects, both of which started last year and are well underway to completion. The first examines how insurance companies respond to the geographic variation in rating areas on the ACA Marketplace, how these responses impact consumers, and how we could design the geographic boundaries of rating areas optimally. She is exploiting the fact that some states treat each county as a rating area, whereas other states aggregate counties, giving plausibly exogenous variation in the sizes of rating areas. The second project evaluates the effects of Medicaid expansion on the ER utilization of privately insured patients in the presence of queuing and the consequences of changes in utilization in terms of cost and patient outcomes. The idea here is that the Medicaid expansion may have affected queuing in some emergency rooms, causing commercially insured patients to select different hospitals when they had emergent medical needs. Here, identification is based on the differential geographic impact of the Medicaid expansions. The ultimate goal of both projects is furthering understanding of how government intervention in health care markets impacts patients.

While Northwestern has a robust health economics community, I have no doubt that Eilidh would benefit from (and contribute to) the Boot Camp. I expect that the Boot Camp would expand her knowledge of the research frontier in health economics, help her further develop her research agenda and identify unanswered and interesting questions related to her interests. It will also be good to expand her professional network and meet other graduate students who share similar interests in health economics and are potential future collaborators. Ben Vatter, a fourth year NU health economics student, attended Boot Camp last year and has given it glowing reviews. I hope that you will give Eilidh an opportunity to enjoy a similarly positive experience.

Sincerely,



David Dranove