Andrew Michael Placona

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy Health Services Organization and Research (Current Student-part time, remote)
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Relevant Course Work: *Applied Health Services Research, Research Design, Econometrics, Qualitative Methods, Economic Evaluation and Decision-Making, Organizational Behavior, Organizational Theory in Health Services Research; Corporate Strategy*

Masters of Science in Public Policy and Management, Heinz College
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
Relevant Course Work: *Management Science I, Management Science II, Public Finance, Applied Econometrics I, Behavioral Economics, Program Evaluation, Info Security Policy, Empirical Methods, Applied Economic Analysis, Evidence Based Management, Intro to Database Management, Geographic Information Systems*
Relevant Experience: *Student Copy Editor for Heinz Journal*

Bachelor of Arts in History, Minor in Music, *cum laude, honors program graduate*
Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia.
Relevant Course Work: *Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, and Calculus*
Relevant Experience: *Student Book Review Copy Editor for Sixteenth Century Journal*

Relevant Work Experience

United Network for Organ Sharing, Richmond, VA, May 2018 to Present
Data Science Manager Research

- Led a team of five data scientists to address machine learning problems within the field of solid organ transplantation.
- Wrote both peer reviewed and conference publications describing the application of innovative, big data solutions to the field of solid organ transplantation.
- Presented research findings, progress reports, and strategic plans to research audiences (100+ people), the UNOS executive team, and my peers respectively.
- Collaborated with the IT department to scope the implementation of predictive analytics for clinical decision support within solid organ transplantation.
- Influenced the department's research agenda by creating a roadmap to study natural language processing, image processing, and decision science within solid organ transplantation.
- Managed multiple big data and data science projects under the umbrella of UNOS Labs.
- Developed an analytical cloud strategy for UNOS in collaboration with multiple teams in IT (infrastructure engineering, software engineering, and information security).

Skills

Computer: Microsoft Azure, Python, R, SQL, SAS, Spark, Basic Hadoop, basic GIS, basic JAVA, Microsoft Office Suite
Data Analysis: Research and Statistical Design, Machine Learning, Business and Healthcare Analytics
Leadership: People Management (3+ years), Public Speaking, Project Management, Strategic Thinking

Awards

Professional: *3rd Place AcademyHealth's 2016 Datapalooza Data Science Challenge, Finalist Capital One Innovation Challenge*
Graduate School: *1st Place Allegheny County Local Government Case Competition*
Collegiate: *Phi Beta Kappa, Fintel Senior Scholar, IFC Scholar Brother, Omicron Delta Kappa, Junior Scholar, Summer Scholar 2007, Pi Alpha Theta, Alpha Lambda Delta*

Peer Reviewed Publications

Placona AM, Martinez C, McGehee H, et al. Can donor narratives yield insights? A natural language processing proof of concept to facilitate kidney allocation. American Journal of Transplantation: Official Journal of the American Society of Transplantation and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. 2020 Apr; 20(4):1095-1104. DOI: 10.1111/ajt.15705.

Placona, A., Shay, P., Goff, R. R., & Carrico, B. (2021). Do Organizational Characteristics of Lung Procurement Operations Matter: The Association Between Transplant Center Centrality and Volume With Total Ischemic Time. Transplantation, 10.1097/TP.0000000000003781. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000003781

Interest Statement

Within the economics of artificial intelligence, my interest is the intersection of the economics of information, artificial intelligence, and medicine. How do economic theories of information, i.e. search costs, helps to explain physician behaviors associated with artificial intelligence? This question arose after reading a recent systematic review in JAMA Open, namely Vasey et al. 2021. This review demonstrated the application of artificial intelligence does not always increase the efficiency frontier. Physicians will often reject recommendations from artificial intelligence; however, behavioral economics interventions could help physicians with complex medical-decisions.

This conference could help me frame research interventions pertaining medical decision-making. Having examined the prior conferences' syllabi, a general overview of the economics of artificial intelligence and decision-making behavior is of interest. Past conferences have included a session on behavioral economics. Given this an emerging area of research, my present course of study would not allow me to learn this area of research as well as learning from experts, such as yourselves.

Although I am not a traditional candidate, I believe my presence at this conference could be of value to myself and other participants My PhD is an interdisciplinary program, in health services and organization research, located with the health administration department at Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition to have taken courses in Economic Evaluation and Health Economics, my course work has included several classes in econometrics, classes in organizational behavior, and strategic management. As a part time student, I am also a Data Science Manager for the United Network for Organ Sharing. My work has been on the development of predictive models and econometric studies of the U.S. transplant system (see CV for peer reviewed publications). In addition, I work closely with behavioral science unit developing studies to examine physician decision-making behaviors.