Submission to Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research

To the Selection Committee,

I am a PhD student in Vanderbilt's Department of Health Policy, where my research focuses on Medicare. Broadly, I study how Medicare policy shapes care continuity and patient outcomes. More specifically, I am interested in how the design of coverage, eligibility, and payment — Medicare Advantage enrollment, dual-eligible integration, and value-based payment models — determines whether older and low-income adults experience care as a coherent set of services or as a series of fragmented encounters, and how those encounters affect health. I want to answer questions at the intersection of insurance design, provider behavior, and patient outcomes.

I am currently working on projects estimating the impact of Medicaid coverage interruptions among dual-eligible beneficiaries. Before graduate school, I spent several years as a statistician and outcomes researcher, most recently at a large network of Accountable Care Organizations, where I used experimental and quasi-experimental methods to evaluate care management and population health initiatives on quality, utilization, and cost. That work convinced me that the most pressing questions in this space required deeper training in causal inference and policy design, which is what brought me to Vanderbilt.

I hope to gain three things from the Mentorship Program. First, because I sit in a health policy department, my work is framed primarily by health services research; I would like to deepen my exposure to economics and economic methods. My future goal is to publish research impactful to both the health policy and economics literature, so I hope more guided mentorship from dedicated economists will support that development of that research. Second, I want to build a network of economists outside of health services research — both as future collaborators and as a community whose standards elevate my own. Third, I want to expand my methodological capabilities for policy evaluation, particularly modern approaches to quasi-experimental design and the analysis of administrative data, so that I am well positioned to produce rigorous, policy-relevant evidence as I move toward an independent research career.

Overall, I would be excited to be considered for the mentoring program, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Doug Fletcher
Doctoral Student
Department of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University

Douglas Fletcher

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Education

Vanderbilt University *2025 - Present*
Ph.D. | *Health Policy and Health Services Research* *Nashville, TN*
Primary Advisors: John Graves PhD, Laura Keohane PhD

Texas A&M University *2016 - 2020*
B.S. | *Statistics, summa cum laude* *College Station, TX*

Professional Experience

Senior Research Analyst *2023 - 2025*
Research Analyst *Bethesda, MD*
Aledade Inc.

Designed and executed quantitative studies evaluating the impact of clinical and operational interventions on patient outcomes and healthcare utilization across multiple payer populations. Applied causal inference methods and predictive modeling to support evidence-based decision-making, managing projects end-to-end from study design through analysis and dissemination.

Mathematical Statistician *2022 - 2023*
U.S. Census Bureau *Suitland, MD*

Developed and implemented statistical programs supporting large-scale survey data processing and census operations, including the design of programming specifications and predictive models to improve data quality and operational efficiency. Contributed to technical reports evaluating and optimizing survey methodology and data collection procedures.

Public Health Analyst *2020 - 2021*
RTI International *Research Triangle Park, NC*

Provided analytic and project management support for federally funded healthcare program evaluations, contributing to multi-state evaluation reports and performance reporting across a portfolio of CMS initiatives. Developed statistical programming specifications and data management workflows in support of applied health services research.

Publications

[1] M. Segelman, **D. Fletcher**, D. Hariharan, A. Gadaska, Z. Feng, G. Khatutsky, and M. Ingber. "Outcomes for Long-Stay Nursing Facility Residents Following Acute Care Under a CMS Initiative". In: *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* (2024).

[2] L. E. Bercaw, A. Levinson, **D. Fletcher**, S. B. Shuman, S. Hughes, S. Peddada, and E. G. Walsh. "Assessing Disparities in Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services: A Systematic Review". In: *Journal of Aging & Social Policy* (2022).

Presentations

Conference Presentations

[1] **D. Fletcher**, J. Graves, K. Thomas, and L. Keohane. Status Coverage Changes Among Newly Enrolled Dual Eligibles. American Society of Health Economists. Seattle, WA, 2026.

[2] A. Raim, **D. Fletcher**, and S. Brady Clark. Statistical Modeling of the Mobile Questionnaire Assistance Operation. Joint Statistical Meeting. Toronto, Canada, 2023.

[3] M. Segelman, D. Hariharan, **D. Fletcher**, A. Gadaska, Z. Feng, G. Khatutsky, and M. Ingber. Outcomes For Long-Stay Nursing Facility Residents Following Acute Care Under a CMS Initiative. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting. Washington, DC, 2022.

[4] **D. Fletcher** and G. Inocencio. A Mixed Methods Corpus Analysis on the Need for Targeted Training to Guide Academic Literacy through Critical Competency. International Writing Center Association. Columbus, OH, 2019.

[5] **D. Fletcher**. Methods for Improving Science Writing Training in the Writing Center. National Conference on Peer Tutoring and Writing. Corpus Christi, TX, 2018.

Conference Posters

[1] **D. Fletcher**, J. Graves, K. Thomas, and L. Keohane. Status Coverage Changes Among Newly Enrolled Dual Eligibles. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting. Seattle, WA, 2026.

[2] **D. Fletcher**, Q. Li, N. Chong, A. Vadnais, M. Segelman, G. Khatutsky, Z. Feng, and M. Ingber. The Prevalence of Acute Care Transfers due to Healthcare Associated Infections among Long-Stay Nursing Home Residents. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting. Washington, DC, 2022.

Other Presentations

[1] Status Coverage Changes Among Newly Enrolled Dual Eligibles. Brown University, Center for Gerontology and Healthcare Research Systems Panel. May 2026.

[2] Poster. Status Coverage Changes Among Newly Enrolled Dual Eligibles. Vanderbilt Translational Research Forum. Nashville, TN, 2025.

Graduate Coursework

- Causal Inference
- Program and Policy Evaluation
- Epidemiologic Theory and Methods
- Health Policy
- Health Economics
- Modern Biostatistical Methods (I and II)
- Healthcare Database Research

Skills

Programming: R, Python (Pandas, PySpark, etc.), SAS (Base, Macro Language), Stata, SQL, Stan
Platforms: dbt, Spark, Databricks, Snowflake, Postgres, BigQuery, Torch
Technical: Causal Inference, Machine Learning, Survey Sampling, Git

Educational Honors and Involvement

- **University Graduate Fellowship & Russell G. Hamilton Scholar** | Vanderbilt University | 2025–2029
- **Editor-in-Chief / Fundraising Chair**, Texas A&M Undergraduate Research Journal | 2016–2020
- **Fellow**, Academy of Undergraduate Researchers Across Texas | 2019–2020
- **Honor & University Separations Council Member**, Aggie Honor System | 2016–2020
- **Undergraduate Research Scholar**, Texas A&M University | 2019
- **Honors Fellow**, Texas A&M University | 2020

Technical Reports

1. Watzak, B., **Fletcher, D.**, Dickey, N. D., Alaniz, A., & Cassens, K. (2021). Bright Spots: Case Studies in Innovative Rural Healthcare. Robert Wood Johnson, Episcopal Health, and TLL Temple Foundations.
2. RTI International. (2022). Evaluation of the Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents. Final Report. CMMI, CMS.
3. RTI International. (2021). Evaluation of the Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents. Fourth Annual Report. CMMI, CMS.
4. RTI International. (2021–2022). Evaluations of the Financial Alignment Initiative (CMMI, CMS):
   - Texas: Evaluation of the Financial Alignment Initiative: Texas Dual Eligible Integrated Care Demonstration - Second Evaluation Report. (2022)
   - Washington: Evaluation of the Financial Alignment Initiative: Washington Health Home MFFS Demonstration - Fifth Evaluation Report. (2022)
   - South Carolina: Evaluation of the Financial Alignment Initiative: South Carolina Healthy Connections Prime - Second Evaluation Report. (2022)
   - Rhode Island: Evaluation of the Financial Alignment Initiative: Rhode Island Integrated Care Initiative - Combined First and Second Evaluation Report. (2022)
   - Ohio: Evaluation of the Financial Alignment Initiative: MyCare Ohio - Second Evaluation Report. (2022)
   - New York: Evaluation of the Financial Alignment Initiative: New York FIDA-IDD - Preliminary Combined First and Second Evaluation Report. (2022)
   - Michigan: Evaluation of the Financial Alignment Initiative: Michigan MI Health Link - Second Evaluation Report. (2022)
   - Massachusetts: Evaluation of the Financial Alignment Initiative: Massachusetts One Care - Preliminary Fourth Evaluation Report. (2022)
   - Illinois: Evaluation of the Financial Alignment Initiative: Illinois Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Initiative - Second Evaluation Report. (2021)

Professional Affiliations

Academy Health
American Society of Health Economists

References

- ***Dr. Laura Keohane***, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- ***Dr. John Graves***, PhD, Professor, Department of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Professor, Owen School of Management
- ***Dr. Ryan Kandrack***, PhD, Senior Director, Impact Analytics, Aledade Inc.
- ***Dr. Brant Morefield***, PhD, Senior Director, Impact Analytics, Aledade Inc.
- ***Dr. Jessica (Jette) Henderson***, PhD, Senior Staff AI Research Scientist, Aledade Inc.