Renee Garrow
renee.garrow@columbia.edu

Dear Professor Leder-Luis and Professor Tello Trillo,

In the fall, I will be a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Economics at Columbia University. In general, I am interested in how healthcare is supplied in the US and how this affects health outcomes and costs. I have two early-stage projects that I think could benefit from mentoring through this program. I am also looking for guidance in identifying and developing promising new research ideas and navigating health data sources. I would like to meet PhD students from other universities who might be interested in co-authoring projects on aging and health.

I am working on two early-stage projects about the growth of non-physician providers. The first is motivated by the observation that the number of physical therapists has increased substantially since 2000. I am interested in understanding the complementarity and substitutability of physical therapy with other healthcare services, including joint replacements and the use of opioids. In the second project, I would like to understand how Medicare payment rules that allow physician assistants and nurse practitioners to receive higher payments if billing under a physician affect the structure of firms in the outpatient setting. Mentorship in refining and advancing these research projects would be helpful.

I am also looking for inspiration for new ideas related to aging. I would like to work on research to improve the quality of life of the aging population and the efficiency of healthcare services they use. I see my physical therapy project as related to this. I am hoping the mentoring program could help me better understand the open questions at the intersection of aging and health. I know the program will cover empirical methods, which could help me generate new ideas or think of new approaches for my current projects.

I am seeking general guidance on the feasibility and process of accessing different sources of health data. This includes Medicare claims, electronic health record data, and data obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests. Any mentoring about the nuances of publicly available CMS data would be helpful, as I am trying to measure and understand the supply of various non-physician providers.

Thank you for considering me for this mentoring program. I would be very excited to attend the program and the conference the next day. My CV is attached below.

Sincerely,
Renee Garrow

Renee Garrow

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics Expected 2029

Columbia University, New York, NY

Advisors: Cristóbal Otero, Pietro Tebaldi

Courses: First year sequence, Labor field, Public field, Industrial Organization, Organizational Economics

B.A. in Economics, summa cum laude 2020

William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Work in Progress

Does access matter for children's vaccinations? Evidence from scope of practice laws

I examine whether changes to state scope of practice laws that allowed pharmacists to give vaccines to children affected vaccine uptake. Using a difference-in-differences approach, I find that one percent of children were vaccinated at a pharmacy after these policies went into effect. However, there are no effects on overall vaccination rates, suggesting that these policies facilitated substitution between healthcare providers rather than expanding the market for vaccines.

Publications

The impact of Medicaid expansion on spending and utilization by older low-income Medicare beneficiaries (with Jennifer Mellor, Melissa McInerney, and Lindsay Sabik)

Health Services Research, 58(5), 1024 – 1034, 2023. [DOI]

Examining Medicaid Participation and Medicaid Entry Among Senior Medicare Beneficiaries With Linked Administrative and Survey Data (with Jennifer Mellor, Melissa McInerney, and Lindsay Sabik)

Medical Care Research and Review, 80(1), 109 – 125, 2023. [DOI]

Experience

Research Assistant 2021 – 2023

Federal Reserve Board, Washington, DC

Systemic Financial Institutions and Markets

Research Associate 2020 – 2021
William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
The Schroeder Center for Health Policy

Teaching

Instructor, Columbia University
Principles of Economics, Undergraduate Summer 2025

Teaching Assistant, Columbia University
Intermediate Microeconomics, Undergraduate Fall 2025
Principles of Economics, Undergraduate Fall 2024

Awards and Honors

Robert A. Berry Award (given to one senior in economics) 2020
Selby-Corey Prize for Academic Excellence in Economics 2019

Conference Presentations

Midwestern Economics Association Conference (accepted but canceled) 2020
National Conference on Undergraduate Research (accepted but canceled) 2020
Women in Economic Research Conference at Williams College 2019