

Department of International Health

The Department of International Health is committed to helping the world's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people improve their health and well-being, wherever they live.

Our global health economics work is focused on applying economic thinking and tools to the health challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Our faculty have expertise in a range of areas – health care financing, economic evaluation, behavioral economics, contingent valuation, econometric methods, impact evaluation of health programs, and economic development. Faculty have rich experience working in a range of LMICs and actively engage with global development institutions such as the World Bank and WHO, as well as national governments. We apply economic methods to ensure that health systems in resource-poor contexts can serve their populations in an efficient, effective and affordable manner.

Meet Some of Our Health Economics Faculty



Antonio Trujillo, PhD
Associate Professor

Dr. Trujillo is a health economist with expertise in economics of aging, chronic conditions and applied econometrics. He is director of the

Master's in Global Health Economics program with research interests in the risk behaviors, management and prevention of chronic conditions. One of his goals is to design effective public health programs to motivate individuals with diabetes and hypertension to engage in self-management. He is also exploring how an economic view of fairness can inform regulation on price transparency and gouging in drug prices.

Select publications

Antonio J. Trujillo, Taruja Karmarkar, Caleb Alexander, William Padula, Jeremy Greene, Gerard Anderson (2018). *Economists' view of Fairness in Drug Prices: Do they really think differently from the public?* (In Press *Journal of Health Economics, Policy and Law*)

Trujillo, A., Fleisher, L* (2013). *Beyond Income, Access and Knowledge: the Education Gradient on Prevention among Diabetics and Hypertensive.* *Journal of Aging and Health, Vol 25:8, pp. 1398-1424.*



Cristina Garcia, PhD
Assistant Scientist

Dr. Garcia's work focuses on evaluating the broader economic impact of vaccines, including estimating disease and economic burden of vaccine preventable

illness, evaluating approaches to increasing vaccine demand, and measuring the economic impact of vaccine introduction. Her research interests are in measuring health system inequities, understanding the impact of out-of-pocket health expenditures on families, and evaluating health systems approaches to financial risk protection and vaccine access.

Select Publications

Constenla D, Garcia C, Lefcourt N, on behalf of the Dengue Costing Working Group. *Assessing the economics of dengue: results from a systematic review of the literature.* *PharmacoEconomics J.* 2015. DOI 10.1007/s40273-015-0294-7.

Garcia CR, Mullany LC, Rahmathullah L, Katz J, Thulasiraj RD, Sheeladevi S, Coles C, Tielsch JM. *Breast-Feeding Initiation Time and Neonatal Mortality Risk among Newborns in South India.* *J Perinatol* 2011; 31(6):397-403.

Krishna D. Rao, PhD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Rao's work focuses on health systems in low- and middle-income countries. Within the area of health systems, he works largely in three areas: human resources, health services research and health financing. His research goals center around finding ways to equitably improve access to affordable health services in resource-poor areas.



Select Publications

Rao KD, Sheffel A. (2018). *Quality of Clinical Care and Bypassing of Primary Health Centers in India.* *Social Science and Medicine; DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2018.04.040*

Rao, K.D., Ryan, M., Shroff, Z., Vujicic, M., Ramani, S., & Berman, P. (2013). *Rural clinician scarcity and job preferences of doctors and nurses in India: a discrete choice experiment.* *PLoS One, 8,12. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0082984.*



Bryan Patenaude, ScD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Patenaude is a health economist with research interests in understanding health system strength, sustainability, and efficiency in low- and lower-middle-income countries, applying behavioral economics to the economic evaluation of public health policy, incentive design for the health workforce, and understanding the medium- and long-term causal impact of health investments on non-health sectors.

Select Publications

Malaria control across borders: quasi-experimental evidence from the Trans-Kunene malaria initiative (TKMI). Khadka A, Perales NA, Wei DJ, Gage AD, Haber N, Verguet S, Patenaude B, Fink G. *Malar J.* 2018 Jun 4;17(1):224. doi: 10.1186/s12936-018-2368-4.

The impact of ART initiation on household food security over time. Patenaude BN, Chimbindi N, Pillay D, Bärnighausen T. *Soc Sci Med.* 2018 Feb;198:175-184. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.11.036. Epub 2017 Nov 26.

David Bishai, MD, PhD
Professor

Dr. Bishai's major research interest is the economics of public health practice. Bishai's current projects focus on the connection between the operations at national, state and local health departments and improved population health. He is currently conducting work on public health in Qatar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, China, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.



Select Publications

Bishai, D., M. K. Sherry*, C. Pereira, S. Chicumbe, F. Mbofana, A. Boore, M. Smith, L. Nhambi and N. Borse (2016). "Development and Usefulness of a District Health Systems Tool for Performance Improvement in Essential Public Health Functions in Botswana and Mozambique." *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* 22 (6) 586-596.

Leider, J. P., Alfonso, N., Resnick, B., Brady, E., McCullough, J. M., & Bishai, D. (2018). Assessing The Value Of 40 Years Of Local Public Expenditures On Health. *Health Affairs*, 37(4), 560-569.

Andres Vecino, MD, MEcon, PhD
Assistant Scientist



Dr. Vecino is a health economics faculty in the Health Systems Program and a researcher with the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit (JH-IIRU). Dr. Vecino's primary research interests focus on the economics of prevention of NCDI, and how evidence can inform and influence policy. Dr Vecino holds a global seat at the Board of Health Systems Global.

Select Publications

Vecino-Ortiz AI, Arroyo-Ariza D. A tax on sugar sweetened beverages in Colombia: Estimating the impact on overweight and obesity prevalence across socioeconomic levels. Social Science and Medicine. 2018; 209: 111-116. Q1 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2018.05.043>

Vecino-Ortiz AI, Jafri A, Hyder AA Mortality impacts of interventions for unintentional injuries: prioritizing interventions that work for the poorest billion. The Lancet Global Health. 2018; 6 (5): e523-e534. Q1 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30107-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30107-4)

Alan Sorkin, PhD
Adjunct Professor

Sorkin's research focuses on the economics of health care in developing countries and, more specifically, health and economic development.



Select Publications

Health Economics: An Introduction, Third Revised Edition, Free Press, The MacMillian Co., 1992.

Health Economics for Developing Nations, Heath Lexington, 1976.

New Degree Program Master of Health Science (MHS) in Global Health Economics

a 9-month academic program that teaches students how to use economic tools to help solve pressing global health problems

Learn how

- Health economic principles are used to address global issues such as migration, displaced persons, climate change and pandemics
- Health economics can be used to promote healthy lifestyles, positive health outcomes, and equitable access to care