

ABBY ALPERT

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CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION AND AFFILIATIONS

The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Associate Professor of Health Care Management (with tenure), 2025-present
Assistant Professor of Health Care Management, 2016-2025
Dorinda and Mark Winkelman Distinguished Faculty Scholar, 2022-present
Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, Senior Fellow, 2016-present

Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2018-present

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Paul Merage School of Business, University of California-Irvine, 2013-2016
Department of Economics and Public Policy
Department of Economics (by courtesy)
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Health Care Management and Policy

Associate Economist, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA, 2011- 2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland, 2011
B.S. Mathematics and Economics, University of Chicago, 2003

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health Economics, Public Economics, Labor Economics

PUBLICATIONS

A. Published and Forthcoming Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. Abby Alpert, Steve Schwab, Ben Ukert, "Opioid Use and Employment Outcomes: Evidence from the U.S. Military," *Accepted at Review of Economics and Statistics*.
2. Charles Gray, Abby Alpert, and Neeraj Sood, "Disadvantaging Rivals: Vertical Integration in the Pharmaceutical Market," *Accepted at American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.

3. Abby Alpert, Sarah Dykstra, and Mireille Jacobson, 2024. "Hassle Costs Versus Information: How Do Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs Reduce Opioid Prescribing?" **American Economic Journal: Economic Policy**, 16(1): 87-123.
4. Abby Alpert, Darius Lakdawalla, and Neeraj Sood, 2023. "Prescription Drug Advertising and Drug Utilization: The Role of Medicare Part D," **Journal of Public Economics**, 221: 104860.
 - Knowledge@Wharton
5. Danae Horn, Mireille Jacobson, Abby Alpert, and Mark Duggan, 2023. "Why Does the Inflation Reduction Act Exclude Expensive Cancer Treatments in Price Negotiations?" **Journal of Clinical Oncology: Oncology Practice**, 20: 254-261.
6. Danae Horn, Abby Alpert, Mark Duggan, Nicolas Garcia, and Mireille Jacobson, 2023. "Biosimilar Competition and Payments in Medicare: The Case of Trastuzumab," **Journal of Clinical Oncology: Oncology Practice**, 19: e476-e483.
7. Abby Alpert, Bill Evans, Ethan Lieber, and David Powell, 2022. "Origins of the Opioid Crisis and Its Enduring Impacts," **Quarterly Journal of Economics**, 137(2): 1139-1179.
 - *2024 Excellence in Research Award, International Society for the Study of Drug Policy*
 - *New York Times, The Atlantic, The Economist, The Journalist's Resource, Marketplace, Malcolm Gladwell Revisionist History, Empire of Pain*
 - *NBER Digest, LDI Blog, Penn Today*
8. Abby Alpert and David Powell, 2020. "Estimating Intensive and Extensive Tax Responsiveness," **Economic Inquiry**, 58(4): 1855-1873.
9. David Powell, Abby Alpert, and Rosalie Pacula, 2019. "A Transitioning Epidemic: How the Opioid Crisis is Driving the Rise in Hepatitis C," **Health Affairs**, 39(2): 287-294.
 - *STAT News, U.S. News & World Report, Medical News Today*
 - *Penn Today*
10. Abby Alpert and Mireille Jacobson, 2019. "Impact of Oncology Drug Shortages on Chemotherapy Treatment," **Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics**, 106(2): 415-421.
 - *Philadelphia Inquirer*
11. Abby Alpert, David Powell, and Rosalie Pacula, 2018. "Supply-Side Drug Policy in the Presence of Substitutes: Evidence from the Introduction of Abuse-Deterrent Opioids," **American Economic Journal: Economic Policy**, 10(4): 1-35.
 - *New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, The Daily Beast, The Journalist's Resource*
 - *LDI Blog*
12. Abby Alpert, Helen Hsi, and Mireille Jacobson, 2017. "Evaluating the Role of Payment Policy in Driving Vertical Integration in the Oncology Market," **Health Affairs**, 36(4): 680-688.

13. Neeraj Sood, Abby Alpert, Kayleigh Barnes, Peter Huckfeldt, and Jose Escarce. 2017. "Effects of Payment Reform in More versus Less Competitive Markets," **Journal of Health Economics**, 51: 66-83.
14. Abby Alpert. 2016. "The Anticipatory Effects of Medicare Part D on Drug Utilization," **Journal of Health Economics**, 49: 28-45.
15. David Auerbach, Ateev Mehrotra, Peter Hussey, Peter Huckfeldt, Abby Alpert, Christopher Lau, and Victoria Shier. 2015. "How Will Provider-Focused Payment Reform Impact Geographic Variation in Medicare Spending?" **American Journal of Managed Care**, 21(6): e390-e398.
16. Christopher Lau, Abby Alpert, Peter Huckfeldt, Peter Hussey, David Auerbach, Hangsheng Liu, Neeraj Sood, and Ateev Mehrotra. 2014. "Post-acute Referral Patterns for Hospitals and Implications for Bundled Payment Initiatives." **Healthcare**, 2(3): 190-195.
17. Kristy Morganti, Abby Alpert, Gregg Margolis, Jeffrey Wasserman, and Arthur Kellermann. 2014. "The State of Innovative Emergency Medical Service Programs in the United States," **Prehospital Emergency Care**, 18(1): 76-85.
18. Abby Alpert, Mark Duggan, and Judith Hellerstein. 2013. "Perverse Reverse Price Competition: Average Wholesale Prices and Medicaid Pharmaceutical Spending." **Journal of Public Economics**, 108: 44-62.
 - NBER Digest
19. Abby Alpert, Kristy Morganti, Gregg Margolis, Jeffrey Wasserman, and Arthur Kellermann. 2013. "Giving EMS Flexibility in Transporting Low-Acuity Patients Could Generate Substantial Medicare Savings," **Health Affairs**, 32(12): 2142-2148.
20. Kristy Morganti, Abby Alpert, Gregg Margolis, Jeffrey Wasserman, and Arthur Kellermann. 2013. "Should Payment Policy be Changed to Allow a Wider Range of EMS Transport Options?" **Annals of Emergency Medicine**, 63(5): 615-626.
21. Geoffrey Joyce, Dana Goldman, Arleen Leibowitz, Abby Alpert, and Yuhua Bao. 2005. "A Socioeconomic Profile of Older Adults with HIV." 2005. **Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved**, 16: 19-28.

B. Working Papers

22. Abby Alpert and Ruochen Sun, 2025. "Managing Prescription Drug Utilization through Administrative Burden: Evidence from Medicaid."
23. Matthew Eisenberg, Brendan Rabideau, Abby Alpert, Rosemary Avery, Jeff Niederdeppe, and Neeraj Sood, 2022. "The Impact of Direct-to-Consumer Advertising on Outpatient Care Utilization," NBER Working Paper.

24. Neeraj Sood, Abby Alpert, Jay Bhattacharya, 2005. “Technology, Monopoly, and the Decline of the Viatical Settlements Industry.” NBER Working Paper.

C. Other Published Writing, Reports, and Book Chapter

David Auerbach, Peter Huckfeldt, Peter Hussey, Abby Alpert, Hangsheng Liu, Victoria Shier, Christopher Lau, Mark Totten, and Ateev Mehrotra. 2013. “IOM Committee on Geographic Variation in Health Care Spending and Promotion of High-Value Care: A Modeling of Policy Recommendations.” RAND Working Paper WR-970-IOM.

Mireille Jacobson, Abby Alpert, and Fabian Duarte. 2012. “Prescription Drug Shortages: Reconsidering the Role of Medicare Payment Policies.” Health Affairs Blog.

Abby Alpert, Alan Garber, and Dana Goldman. 2006. “Societal perspective: comment.” Chapter 28 in Futerma, A. and Zimran, A. eds, Gaucher Disease, pp 489-497. CRC Press.

Neeraj Sood, Abby Alpert, Dana Goldman, and Mary Vaiana. 2004. “Should California Regulate Health Insurance Premiums?” 2004. California Health Care Foundation.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Wharton Teaching Excellence Award for MBAs, 2021, 2022, 2024

Wharton Teaching Excellence Award for Undergraduates, 2021, 2022

Wharton Teaching Excellence Award, 2020

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2021

Bing Center for Health Economics Investment Award, RAND Corporation, 2012

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Dissertation Fellowship, 2010 – 2011

Economic Club of Washington, Doctoral Research Fellowship, 2010

Maryland Population Research Center, University of Maryland, Trainee, 2006 – 2007

GRANTS

Wharton Mack Institute Research Fellowship. “The Effects of Prior Authorization on Medicaid Prescription Drug Access,” 2025

Leonard Davis Institute Pilot Grant. “The Effects of Prior Authorization on Medicaid Prescription Drug Access,” 2022.

Wharton Dean’s Research Fund. “The Effects of Prior Authorization on Medicaid Prescription Drug Access,” 2021-2023.

Wharton Dean’s Research Fund. “Understanding the Consequences of Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Integration,” 2019-2021.

Leonard Davis Institute Pilot Grant. “How Do Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs Reduce Opioid Prescribing?” 2019

Wharton Mack Institute Research Fellowship. “The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Driving Pharmaceutical Prices and Utilization,” 2018

Co-Investigator. Agency for Health Care Research and Quality R01. “Direct and Indirect Effects of Direct-to-Consumer Advertising,” (PI: Rosemary Avery), 2018-2021

Wharton Dean’s Research Fund. “The Effects of Medicaid Managed Care on Utilization and Prices,” 2017-2019.

Co-Investigator. Agency for Health Care Research and Quality R01. “Did the Medicare Modernization Act Cause Oncology Drug Shortages?” (PI: Mireille Jacobson), 2014-2017.

Principal Investigator. Agency for Health Care Research and Quality R03. “The Impact of Medicaid Reimbursement Policies on Pharmaceutical Spending,” 2013-2015.

Co-Investigator. National Cancer Institute R21. “The Welfare Consequences of Oncology Drug Shortages” (PI: Mireille Jacobson), 2013-2015.

Co-Principal Investigator. National Institute on Aging P30. “How Do Large Wealth Shocks Affect Retirement Behavior?” (Co-PI: David Powell), 2012-2013.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

MBA: Instructor, HCMG 8630, Management and Economics of the Pharmaceutical & Biotech Industries, 2017-2022, 2024-2025

Undergraduate: Instructor, HCMG 2150/8990, Management and Economics of the Pharmaceutical & Biotech Industries, 2017-2022, 2024-2025

The Paul Merage School of Business, University of California-Irvine

MBA: Instructor, Microeconomics for Management, 2014-2016

Department of Economics, University of Maryland

Undergraduate: Instructor, Labor Economics, 2008-2010

PhD: Teaching Assistant, Empirical Microeconomics, Spring 2008, Fall 2008

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Mark Duggan, University of Maryland, 2007, 2009 – 2010

Research Assistant, John Haltiwanger and Seth Sanders, Census Bureau, LEHD, 2007

Research Assistant, Seth Sanders, University of Maryland, 2005 – 2007

Research Assistant, RAND Corporation, Health Economics Group, 2003 – 2005

Research Assistant, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), 2002

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer: American Economic Review, Review of Economic Studies, Quarterly Journal of Economics, The Economic Journal, American Economic Review: Insights, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Health Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Risk and Insurance, Health Economics, Economic Inquiry, Journal of Policy Analysis & Management, International Journal of Health Economics and Management, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, Forum for Health Economics & Policy, Health Services Research, Health Affairs, JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Conference Organization and Panelist

- Program Chair: Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (Prescription Drugs), 2021
- Co-Chair of Organizing Committee: LDI Conference on “The Cost of a Cure: Creating Sustainable Solutions for Gene and Cell Therapies,” 2018
- Panelist: “Being a Health Economist: Working in Different Types of Departments and Schools,” Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, 2022
- Panelist: “Informing and Refining the Prescription Drug Promotion Research Agenda,” Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy, 2021
- Panelist: “Vaccines & Global Health,” Penn Life Sciences Management (LSM) Retreat, 2020
- Moderator: “Balancing Innovation and Access,” Wharton Healthcare Business Conference, 2022
- Judge: “Opioid Use Prevention,” Wharton Public Policy Institute Case Competition, 2018

University Service

The Wharton School

- Faculty Search Advisor, 2023-present
- CIRC Committee, 2021-2023
- MBA Executive Committee, 2018-2020

The Wharton School, Health Care Management (HCMG) Department

- Co-Organizer, Wharton HCMG Health Economics Workshop, 2018-2022
- Organizer, Penn Health Economics Workshop for PhD Students, 2017-2019
- PhD Admissions, 2017-present
- Junior Faculty Recruiting Committee, 2019-2020

The Paul Merage School of Business, University of California at Irvine

- Master’s Program Committee, 2013-2014
- Undergraduate Program Committee, 2014-2016
- UC Irvine Subcommittee on International Education, 2015-2016

Wharton Advising

Doctoral Student Advising (**Supervisor; first placement in parentheses*)

Steve Schwab (Baylor University, 2018), Lindsey Patterson (Harvard Postdoc, 2019), Sarah Dykstra* (Boston Consulting Group, 2020), Molly Freat* (Analysis Group, 2021), Ben Chartock* (Bentley University, 2022), Charles Gray* (Bates White, 2024), Sarah Schutz* (RAND, 2024), Catherine Ishitani (Columbia Mailman School of Public Health/Yale Postdoc, 2025)

MBA Student Advising (Independent Study)

Kishore Jayakumar (2017), J.C. Lopez (2018), Shane Bouchard (2020), Elizabeth Morse (2020), Chris Greeno (2020), Richard Woo (2020), Hannah Williams (2021), Joshua Gertsman (2021), Ben Davis (2024)

Undergrad Student Advising (Senior Thesis/Summer Program for Undergraduate Research)

Samantha Carter (2018), Hoyt Gong (2018), Hannah Gray (2019), Maggie Wu (2020), Emily Cheng (2021), Rachel Goldstein (2021), Anchita Batra (2022), Corey He (2025)

INVITED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2025: Georgetown University, McDonough School of Business

2024: Bates White Life Sciences Symposium; Boston University Questrom School of Business; Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (presenter, discussant); Congressional Budget Office Panel of Health Advisers Annual Meeting; Duke Empirical Health Law Conference; Emory University, Department of Economics, University of Connecticut, Department of Economics; Workshop on the Economic and Criminogenic Impacts of the Opiate Epidemic (keynote)

2023: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Bates White Life Sciences Symposium; Ohio State University, Department of Economics; Congressional Budget Office; Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (discussant)

2022: Lehigh University, Department of Economics; APPAM Research Conference; Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (discussant)

2021: Johns Hopkins University, Health Economics Seminar; Bates White Life Sciences Symposium; AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting (discussant), Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (discussant)

2020: University of Toronto, Department of Economics; Cornell University, Virtual Economics of Risky Behaviors Seminar; Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad; University of Chicago, Becker Friedman Institute; Cal Poly State University, Orfalea College of Business; AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting

2019: NBER Health Care Program Fall Meeting; University of Maryland, Department of Economics; Tulane University, Department of Economics; Temple University, Department of Economics; Bates White Life Sciences Symposium; AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting (discussant)

2018: Stanford University, Health Economics Seminar; Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (presenter, discussant); American Enterprise Institute, Economics Seminar

2017: BU/Harvard/MIT Health Economics Seminar; UCLA, Seminar on Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy; Rutgers University, Department of Economics; U.S. Food & Drug Administration; Bates White Life Sciences Symposium; Caribbean Health Economics Symposium; AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting (HERO Session)

2016: The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; University of Southern California, Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics; Bates White Life Sciences Symposium; APPAM Fall Research Conference; Penn-CMU Roybal Retreat; Rice University, Department of Economics (guest lecture); Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (presenter, discussant)

2015: NBER Summer Institute- Health Care; Annual Health Economics Conference, University of Georgia; Midwest Health Economics Conference, University of Iowa; Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics, Claremont McKenna College

2014: University of California-Irvine, Department of Economics; Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (presenter, discussant)

2013: University of California-Irvine, Paul Merage School of Business

2012: University of Chicago, Health Economics Workshop; University of California- Riverside, Department of Economics; Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (presenter, discussant); Midwest Health Economics Conference, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics, Claremont McKenna College

2011: Vanderbilt University, Department of Economics; University of Georgia, Department of Economics; University of Colorado- Denver, Department of Economics; University of Colorado- Denver, School of Public Health; University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health; RAND Corporation; Mathematica Policy Research; IMPAQ; Precision Health Economics; U.S. Treasury Department; Congressional Budget Office

2010: Conference of the American Society of Health Economists

Updated: July 2025