

Jason Chen

Last updated: November 10, 2025

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Placement Chairs:

Mark Dean (md3405@columbia.edu)
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Education

Columbia University

Ph.D. in Economics	2020 – Present (expected May 2026)
M.Phil. in Economics	2024
M.A. in Economics	2022

University of California, Berkeley

B.A. in Computer Science and Economics (*High Distinction*) 2016 – 2020

Fields of Specialization

Health Economics, Labor Economics, Industrial Organization, Business Economics

Job Market Paper

Quality and Location Choice of Immigrant Doctors

Doctor shortages are a widespread and growing concern in the healthcare systems of many developed countries, including in the United States. Allowing for immigration of working doctors is a commonly proposed policy to expand doctor supply. In the US, however, licensing requirements that impede immigrants with medical training from working as doctors are commonly justified on the grounds of ensuring their quality. I study the quality of domestically trained and immigrant doctors in the US, focusing on a setting with strong identification and measurement – Medicare patients and hospital emergency rooms. I find quality *premiums* associated with care provided by immigrant doctors, both within a given hospital and across the entire distribution of emergency room doctors. Notably, I do not find such quality premiums for US citizen medical students educated abroad. I also find immigrant doctors are significantly more likely to work in designated health professional shortage areas. Estimates from a structural matching model of the doctor labor market reveal that neither mobility preferences nor vertical sorting can fully explain this geographic pattern, suggesting immigrants have a greater preference towards working in these areas. These results show the important role of immigrant doctors in providing quality healthcare in the areas of greatest need in the US.

Work in Progress

1. Medical School Entry and the Doctor Labor Market

2. Congestion and Demand for College Majors

Research and Work Experience

Research assistant for Prof. Cristobal Otero, Columbia Business School	2024
Research assistant for Prof. Chris Moser, Columbia Business School	2022
Research assistant for Prof. Jonas Hjort, Columbia Business School	2021
Research assistant for Profs. Patrick Kline and Chris Walters, UC Berkeley	2019-2020
Research assistant for Prof. Stefano Dellavigna, UC Berkeley	2018-2020
Part-time consultant at Lexington Partners, LLC	2025

Teaching

TA for Intro to Economics	Summer 2024
TA for Econometrics I (MA)	Fall 2023
TA for Microeconomic Analysis II (MA)	Spring 2023

Awards and Fellowships

Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University	2025
Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University	2020-2024
Phi Beta Kappa	2020

Skills and Bio

Programming: Python, R, Julia, SQL, Java
Software: Stata, LaTeX, PySpark
Languages: English (native), Chinese
Citizenship: United States
Gender: Male

References

Gautam Gowrisankaran Professor of Economics Columbia University gg2840@columbia.edu	Jonah Rockoff Paul Garrett Professor of Public Policy and Business Responsibility Columbia Business School jr2331@gsb.columbia.edu	Cristóbal Otero Assistant Professor of Economics Columbia Business School c.oterо@columbia.edu
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