

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Department of Economics
 4-101 Hanson Hall
 1925 Fourth Street South
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
 U.S.A.

(612) 625-6353
 (612) 624-0209 FAX

Placement Directors
 Ellen R. McGrattan
 erm@umn.edu
 (612) 625-6714
 Thomas Holmes
 holmes@umn.edu
 (612) 625-6353

Placement Coordinator
 Catherine Bach
 (612) 625-6859
 c-bach@umn.edu

Curriculum Vitae
Fall 2020

CONOR B. RYAN**Personal Data***Address*

4-101 Hanson Hall
 1925 Fourth Street South
 Minneapolis, MN 55455

Contact Information

Cell: (708) 308-3723
 E-mail: ryan0463@umn.edu
 URL: conor-ryan.com

Citizenship: USA

Major Fields of Concentration

Industrial Organization, Health Economics, Antitrust

Education

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
PhD	Economics	University of Minnesota (expected)	2021
MA	Economics	University of Minnesota	2020
BS	Civil Engineering, <i>cum laude</i>	Cornell University	2011

Dissertation

Title: "Essays on Competition in Health Insurance"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Thomas Holmes

Expected Completion: Summer 2021

References

Professor Thomas Holmes	(612) 625-6353 holmes@umn.edu	Department of Economics University of Minnesota 4-101 Hanson Hall 1925 Fourth Street South Minneapolis, MN 55455
Professor Amil Petrin	(612) 625-0145 petrin@umn.edu	1925 Fourth Street South Minneapolis, MN 55455
Professor Stephen Parente	(612) 624-1391 paren010@umn.edu	Department of Finance Carlson School of Management 321 19 th Avenue South Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
Professor Naoki Aizawa	(608) 262-9250 naizawa@wisc.edu	Department of Economics University of Wisconsin Madison 1180 Observatory Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Honors and Awards

- 2020 - 2021 *Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship*, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2018 *First Place*, Third Year Paper Competition, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2016 - 2017 *Morton and Artice Silverman Fellowship*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2015 - 2106 *Kurt Winkelmann and Janine Gleason Fellowship*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2011 *Chi Epsilon*, Undergraduate Civil Engineering Honor Society, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Teaching Experience

- 2017 - 2018 *Teaching Assistant*, Medical Industry Leadership Institute, Carlson School of Management, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led recitation sections for masters' level *Health Care Analytics*.
- 2015 - 2017 *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led recitation sections for *Principles of Macroeconomics* and for the graduate *Macroeconomic Theory* sequence.

Research Experience

- 2018 - 2019 *Public Health Intern*, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC
- 2017 - 2019 *Research Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Research assistant to Professor Fatih Guvenen.
- 2016 *Summer Associate*, Macroeconomic Analysis Division, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, DC
- 2013 - 2015 *Senior Health Care Data Analyst*, American Action Forum, Washington, DC
- 2011 - 2013 *Statistician*, Antitrust Division, Economic Analysis Group, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC

Publications

- "UPP as a Predictor of Merger Price Effects," with Nathan Miller, Marc Remer, and Gloria Sheu, *International Journal of Industrial Organization*, 52, 2017: 216-247
- "Pass-Through and the Prediction of Merger Price Effects," with Nathan Miller, Marc Remer, and Gloria Sheu, *Journal of Industrial Economics*, 64(4) 201, 2016: 683-709.

Working Papers

- "The Effect of Insurance Competition on Health Care Consumption," job market paper
- "Market Power in the Presence of Adverse Selection"
- "The Effect of an Insurance Mandate: Evidence from an Online Exchange," with Roger Feldman and Steve Parente, under review.
- "Sources of Inertia in Health Plan Choice in the Individual Health Insurance Market," with Coleman Drake and Bryan Dowd

Presentations

- "Market Power in the Presence of Adverse Selection," presented at the School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2018; International Industrial Organization Conference, Boston, MA, 2019; American Society of Health Economists Conference, Washington, DC, 2019 (poster presentation-canceled due to COVID); Healthcare Markets Conference, Northwestern University, 2020 (postponed due to COVID).
- "The Effect of an Insurance Mandate: Evidence from an Online Exchange," Congressional Budget Office, 2018; American Society of Health Economists Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2018
- "Sources of Inertia in Health Plan Choice in the Individual Health Insurance Market," Healthcare Econometrics Workshop, University of Tennessee, 2019.

Computer Skills

R, Julia, SQL, Python, STATA, SAS, Matlab

Languages

English (native), French (proficient), Spanish (beginning)

Abstracts

“The Effect of Insurance Competition on Health Care Consumption,” job market paper

“Market Power in the Presence of Adverse Selection”

Market power can reduce the symptoms of adverse selection. To see the relationship, consider the incentive for a firm to offer a product that appeals to low-risk consumers and leads high-risk consumers to purchase insurance elsewhere. This incentive problem can be addressed through regulation but is also absent in a monopoly. This paper develops a model of welfare to explicitly characterizes the substitutability between adverse selection regulation and market power. Market concentration has welfare benefits by reducing inefficient sorting of consumers among available plan options, a symptom of adverse selection. However, since market concentration also carries the welfare cost of higher markups, the magnitude and net direction of the effects are an empirical question. I estimate the model for the non-group market using novel choice data from a private online broker and a risk prediction model to relate preferences to marginal cost. I simulate the effects of policies that target different dimensions of adverse selection: risk adjustment and the individual mandate. While the risk adjustment policy does not optimally price the sorting externality, it is successful in reducing the welfare cost of inefficient sorting. I find that the individual mandate is successful in increasing the insurance rate and lowering prices in the least concentrated markets, but leads to higher prices in the most concentrated markets. These results suggest that selection regulation is advantageous in competitive insurance markets, and less necessary and potentially harmful in very concentrated markets.

“Sources of Inertia in Health Plan Choice in the Individual Health Insurance Market,” with Coleman Drake and Bryan Dowd

We decompose inertia in health plan choice in the individual health insurance market into three sources: inattention to alternatives, hassle costs related to switching, and tastes for provider continuity. Administrative 2014-2018 data from California’s Health Insurance Marketplace show that 83% of returning households select their default health plans. Using a default-consideration framework, we find that roughly three quarters of default plan selections are due to inertia, nearly 90% of which are due to inattention, hassle costs, and their interaction with one another. We validate our identification of inattention using information on whether households made active plan selections.

“The Effect of an Insurance Mandate: Evidence from an Online Exchange,” with Roger Feldman and Steve Parente

We use a novel data set from a private online marketplace to estimate the demand for individual health insurance and the efficacy of the individual mandate across 126 geographic markets. We find that the own-price semi-elasticities for an insurance product range between -16 and -22, and the semi-elasticity of insurance coverage with respect to the mandate penalty is -1.5. Using a stylized model of supply, we find that the individual mandate modestly increased the share of insured individuals in 2015 by 2.9 percentage points – from 46.6 percent to 49.5 percent.