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**DOCTORAL STUDIES** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
 PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2026  
 DISSERTATION: "Essays in Health Economics"

## DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Professor Jonathan Gruber  
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 MIT Sloan School of Management  
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<b>PRIOR EDUCATION</b>	University of Pennsylvania	2017
	BS in Economics ( <i>summa cum laude</i> , Phi Beta Kappa)	
	University College Cork	2019
	Master's in Public Health (Mitchell Scholar)	
	University of York	2021
	MSc by Research in Health Sciences (Marshall Scholar)	

**CITIZENSHIP** United States **GENDER:** Male

**FIELDS** Primary Field: Health Economics  
 Secondary Fields: Public Economics, Applied Econometrics

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE** TA for Single Variable Calculus 2015  
 Prof. Dennis DeTurck (University of Pennsylvania)

# MIT Economics

THEODORE L. CAPUTI

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<b>RELEVANT POSITIONS</b>	RA for Prof. Amanda Pallais RA for Prof. Jon Gruber and Prof. Jetson Leder-Luis	2019 2022
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<b>FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS</b>	NBER Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Aging and Health (2023-2025) NSF Graduate Research Fellow (2019-2024) MIT Graduate Fellow (2019-2024) Marshall Scholar (2019-2020) Annual Cameron Lecture, University College Cork (2018) Mitchell Scholar (2017-2018) Clarendon Scholarship, University of Oxford (Declined) (2017) Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania (2017) Beta Gamma Sigma, University of Pennsylvania (2016) Leonard Davis Institute Undergraduate Research Prize, University of Pennsylvania (2015)
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<b>PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	Member, American Economic Association (2019-Present) Institutional Review Board Member, Treatment Research Institute (2012-2017)
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Reviewer for: Addiction, Addictive Behaviors, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, American Journal of Public Health, Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health, Drugs: Education, Prevention, and Policy, Injury Prevention, International Journal of Drug Policy, JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association, JAMA Network Open, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, Substance Use and Misuse, Tobacco Control

<b>SELECTED PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>“Dying or Lying? For-Profit Hospices and End of Life Care,” American Economic Review, 2024</b> (with Jon Gruber, David Howard, and Jetson Leder-Luis)
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The Medicare hospice program is intended to provide palliative care to terminal patients, but patients with long stays in hospice are highly profitable, motivating concerns about overuse among the Alzheimer's and Dementia (ADRD) population in the rapidly growing for-profit sector. We provide the first causal estimates of the effect of for-profit hospice on patient spending using the entry of for-profit hospices over 20 years. We find hospice has saved money for Medicare by offsetting other expensive care among ADRD patients. As a result, policies limiting hospice use including revenue caps and antifraud lawsuits are distortionary and deter potentially cost-saving admissions.

**“The Need for Federal Regulation of Marijuana Marketing,” JAMA, 2019** (with John Ayers and Eric Leas)

**“Suicide Risk Behaviors Among Sexual Minority Adolescents in the United States, 2015,” JAMA, 2017** (with John Ayers and Davey Smith)

## RESEARCH PAPERS

### **“The Value of Pharmacies” (Job Market Paper)**

Retail pharmacies play a central role in the delivery of healthcare in the United States, yet little is known about their causal impact on patient behavior and health. Understanding their value is particularly urgent as all three major U.S. pharmacy chains—CVS, Walgreens, and Rite Aid—have recently announced large-scale store closures. This paper estimates the effects of retail pharmacy closures on prescription drug use and health outcomes. Using Medicare claims data from 2009 to 2017, I identify closures through an algorithm that clusters pharmacy identifiers based on shared patients and exploit these events in a two-way fixed effects difference-in-differences design. I find that pharmacy closures significantly reduce prescription drug use, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities and beneficiaries with disabilities. However, the reduction in prescription drug use is partially offset by substantial adaptation: many switch to mail-order pharmacies or obtain longer prescription durations following a closure. Finally, I find minimal effects on downstream health outcomes or healthcare utilization.

### **“Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries and Fatal Car Crashes”**

Car crashes are a leading cause of death among younger Americans and have become a central concern in the US marijuana policy debate. I construct a novel dataset of marijuana dispensary openings, which I use to present new evidence on the effect of marijuana on traffic fatalities. My intra-state differences-in-differences approach both increases power relative to past analyses and eliminates the potential of time-varying state-level confounding. I find that marijuana dispensary openings increase the rate of fatal car crashes by approximately 5.7%. I use a series of tests to discern between two plausible mechanisms – increased traffic and increased impairment – and ultimately find that the effect is primarily driven by impairment.

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

### **“Sedation and Selection: Restricting Antipsychotics in Nursing Homes”**

Antipsychotics have been a major source of policy debate in nursing home care since the 1980s. On one hand, antipsychotics are generally considered medically inappropriate for elderly populations as they increase the risk of cerebrovascular mortality. On the other hand, antipsychotics make caring for elderly patients easier. Use in nursing homes is common; 30-40% of long-stay nursing home patients receive antipsychotics. In this project, I study the effects of a federal policy intended to reduce antipsychotic prescribing in nursing homes on patient health and nursing home strategy. Antipsychotic prescribing in nursing homes decrease, but this reduction appears to be driven by change in patient mix.

## PUBLICATIONS

1. “The Use of Academic Research in Medical Cannabis Marketing: A Qualitative and Quantitative Review of Company Websites,” *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 2022.

2. "Characterizing Help-Seeking Searches for Substance Use Treatment From Google Trends and Assessing Their Use for Infoveillance: Longitudinal Descriptive and Validation Statistical Analysis," *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 2022 (with Dan Abramovitz, John Ayers, Annick Borquez, Davey Johnson, Eric Leas, Alicia Nobles, Tyler Patton, and Steffanie Strathdee).
3. "Re: Observed Impact of Long-Term Consumption of Oral Cannabidiol on Liver Function in Healthy Adults and a New Cannabidiol Safety Study," *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research*, 2022.
4. "What cannabis can learn from Covid: Hydroxychloroquine research suggests the next step for medical cannabis research," *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 2021.
5. "Proportion of U.S. Clinics Offering LGBT-Tailored Mental Health Services Decreased Over Time: A Panel Study of the National Mental Health Services Survey," *Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health*, 2021 (with Donte Chen, Chelsea Shover, and Ryan Watson).
6. "Monitoring HIV testing and pre-exposure prophylaxis information seeking by combining digital and traditional data," *BMC Infectious Diseases*, 2021 (with John Ayers, Davey Johnson, Eric Leas, Ming Liu, Alicia Nobles, Davey Smith, and Steffanie Strathdee).
7. "Impact of the Medicare Shared Savings Program on utilization of mental health and substance use services by eligibility and race/ethnicity," *Health Services Research*, 2021 (with Amanda Acevedo, Benjamin Cook, Michael McWilliams, Benjamin Mullin, and Anna Progovac).
8. "Suicide-Related Internet Searches During the Early Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the US," *JAMA Network Open*, 2021 (with John Ayers, Mark Dredze, Davey Johnson, Eric Leas, Alicia Nobles, and Adam Poliak).
9. "Physical and Sexual Violence Among Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Adolescents," *JAMA Pediatrics*, 2020 (with Chelsea Shover and Ryan Watson).
10. "Collateral Crises of Gun Preparation and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Infodemiology Study," *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance*, 2020 (with John Ayers, Sarah Burd-Sharps, Mark Dredze, and Nicole Suplina).
11. "What Search Data Shows About Americans and Guns During the

- COVID-19 Crisis,” Everytown Research, 2020 (with John Ayers, Sarah Burd-Sharps, Mark Dredze, and Nicole Suplina).
12. “Commentary on Furr-Holden et al.: Drugs, class, and race—recent developments in the opioid epidemic call for urgent next steps,” *Addiction*, 2020.
  13. “News coverage of the E-cigarette, or Vaping, product use Associated Lung Injury (EVALI) outbreak and internet searches for vaping cessation,” *Tobacco Control*, 2020 (with John Ayers, Joanna Cohen, Mark Dredze, Eric Leas, Alicia Nobles, and Shu-Hong Zhu).
  14. “Internet Searches for Unproven COVID-19 Therapies in the United States,” *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 2020 (with John Ayers, Mark Dredze, Aaron Kesselheim, and Ming Liu).
  15. “Responses to addiction help-seeking from Alexa, Siri, Google Assistant, Cortana, and Bixby intelligent virtual assistants,” *npj Digital Medicine*, 2020 (with John Ayers, Eric Leas, Alicia Nobles, Steffanie Strathdee, and Shu-Hong Zhu).
  16. “The Medical Marijuana Industry and the Use of Research as Marketing,” *American Journal of Public Health*, 2020.
  17. “Internet Searches for Sexual Harassment and Assault, Reporting, and Training Since the #MeToo Movement,” *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 2019 (with John Ayers and Alicia Nobles).
  18. “Medical marijuana laws, substance use treatment admissions and the ecological fallacy,” *Addiction*, 2019.
  19. “Medical Cannabis Use,” *Health Affairs*, 2019.
  20. “Medical marijuana, not miracle marijuana: some well-publicized studies about medical marijuana do not pass a reality check,” *Addiction*, 2019.
  21. “Trends in Internet Searches for Cannabidiol (CBD) in the United States,” *JAMA Network Open*, 2019 (with John Ayers, Mark Dredze, Eric Leas, Alicia Nobles, and Davey Smith).
  22. “Substance Use Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Adolescents in the United States, 2015,” *American Journal of Public Health*, 2018 (with John Ayers, Laramie Smith, and Steffanie Strathdee).
  23. “Medical Marijuana Users are More Likely to Use Prescription Drugs

- Medically and Nonmedically,” *Journal of Addiction Medicine*, 2018 (with Keith Humphreys).
24. “Sex and orientation identity matter in the substance use behaviors of sexual minority adolescents in the United States,” *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 2018.
  25. “Online Sales of Marijuana: An Unrecognized Public Health Dilemma,” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 2018 (with John Ayers, Mark Dredze, and Eric Leas).
  26. “Population-Level Analyses Cannot Tell Us Anything About Individual-Level Marijuana-Opioid Substitution,” *American Journal of Public Health*, 2018 (with Kevin Sabet).
  27. “Next generation media monitoring: Global coverage of electronic nicotine delivery systems (electronic cigarettes) on Bing, Google and Twitter, 2013-2018,” *PLOS ONE*, 2018 (with Jon-Patrick Allem, John Ayers, Joanna Cohen, Mark Dredze, and Eric Leas).
  28. “Don't quote me: reverse identification of research participants in social media studies,” *npj Digital Medicine*, 2018 (with John Ayers, Mark Dredze, and Camille Nebeker).
  29. “They're heating up: Internet search query trends reveal significant public interest in heat-not-burn tobacco products,” *PLOS ONE*, 2017 (with John Ayers, Joanna Cohen, Mark Dredze, and Eric Leas).
  30. “Google Searches for Cheap Cigarettes Spike at Tax Increases: Evidence from an Algorithm to Detect Spikes in Time Series Data,” *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 2017.
  31. “Assessing the Possibility of Leadership Education as Psychosocial-Based Problem Behavior Prevention for Adolescents: A Review of the Literature,” *Journal of Leadership Education*, 2017.
  32. “Whether medical marijuana is ever substituted for other substances is not the full story,” *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 2017.
  33. “Response to Comment by Hecht & Miller-Day on Truth and D.A.R.E.: Is D.A.R.E.'s new Keepin' it REAL curriculum suitable for American nationwide implementation?” *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, 2017 (with A. Thomas McLellan).
  34. “The Charlie Sheen Effect on Rapid In-home Human Immunodeficiency Virus Test Sales,” *Prevention Science*, 2017 (with Jon-Patrick Allem, Benjamin Althouse, John Ayers, Mark Dredze,

Eric Leas, and Seth Noar).

35. "Truth and D.A.R.E.: Is D.A.R.E.'s new Keepin' it REAL curriculum suitable for American nationwide implementation?" *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, 2016 (with A. Thomas McLellan).
36. "The case for uniform controls in drug policy studies," *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 2016.
37. "Medicare Recipients' Use Of Medical Marijuana," *Health Affairs*, 2016 (with Keith Humphreys).
38. "Industry watch: heat-not-burn tobacco products are about to reach their boiling point," *Tobacco Control*, 2016.
39. "Commentary on New Perspectives on Drug Education/Prevention," *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 2016 (with Kevin Sabet).