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Northeastern University
*Center for Health Policy and
Healthcare Research*

Fall 2022 Newsletter

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Northeastern University with a joint faculty appointment at the Bouve College of Health Sciences and School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs. Before joining Northeastern she was a faculty member at the School of Public Health, University of Oklahoma, a postdoctoral research associate at the Roybal Institute on Aging at the University of Southern California (USC), a RCMAR Scientist at the Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics at USC, and a T32-postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Gerontology and Healthcare Research at Brown University. Her research resides at the intersection of economics, gerontology, and health services research.

Stephen Flaherty, MBA, PhD, has joined Northeastern University with a faculty appointment at the Bouve College of Health Sciences. He will also be affiliated with the Roux Institute. Before joining Northeastern, he was a data scientist at Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan. He completed his PhD in Population Health at Northeastern University, where he was a research analyst at the Center for Health Policy and Healthcare Research. His research focuses on the application of data science methodologies to improving the cost and quality of healthcare services.

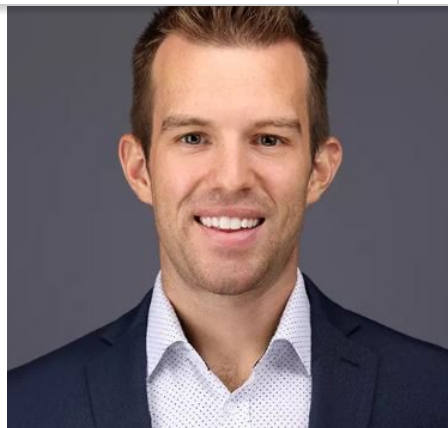


Brady Post, PhD, joined the faculty at Northeastern University in 2020 with an appointment at the Bouve College of Health Sciences, after earning his PhD from the University of Michigan. Dr. Post's research focuses on health policy and health care delivery systems. He studies the importance of vertical integration using large-scale data approaches and quasi-experimental econometric methods.



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John Lowrey, PhD, joined Northeastern in 2021 with a joint appointment at the D'Amore-McKim School of Business and the Bouve College of Health Sciences. Prior to joining Northeastern, Dr. Lowrey worked to develop education campaigns on nutrition for cancer survivorship care plans at Abbott Nutrition. Dr. Lowrey earned his PhD from The Ohio State University in 2021. His research focuses on social determinants of health, specifically food insecurity.



Center faculty continue CDC funded research on treatment for opioids

Center faculty in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health have received new funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for investigating strategies to improve treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder. For the most recent round of funding, Center faculty will be directing a research team focusing on best practices for retaining individuals in treatment using the medication Suboxone.

Center faculty serving as advisors to the Egyptian government on healthcare reform initiative

Center faculty are conducting an implementation study to support the Egyptian health reform initiative that is intended to expand health insurance to all Egyptian citizens and strengthen the country's primary care delivery system. The study is supported by the Egyptian government and GlobeMed, a health benefits company with a large presence in the Middle East. The research team also includes faculty from the American University of Beirut.

Center faculty member presents research to the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission

Center faculty associate Brady Post recently presented his research on hospital employment of physicians to the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission. The invited presentation focused on research he published in the journal *Health Economics* showing that hospital employment of physicians leads to an increase in the risk coding intensity - i.e., the apparent sickness - of patients, implying that increases in hospital employment will raise medical spending while improving provider performance in risk-based payment programs.

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Center faculty associate Md. Noor E Alam (Assistant Professor of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering) received a \$500K National Science Foundation CAREER Award for developing “Robust Matching Algorithms for Causal Inference in Large Observational Studies.” The research will utilize the power of Big Data to infer causality in large-scale observational studies with a particular focus on evaluating policies for improving the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD). The grant will extend ongoing research the Center faculty are conducting for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PhD students on the move

Md Mahmudul Hasan, PhD, recently completed his doctorate in Industrial Engineering while working as a research analyst at the Center for Health Policy and Healthcare Research. He recently joined the University of Florida at Gainesville with a joint appointment in the School of Business and School of Pharmacy. Prior to joining the faculty at UF, Dr. Hasan worked as an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Postdoctoral Fellow of Drug Safety and Artificial Intelligence Methods in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Hasan conducts data-driven interdisciplinary research to address complex challenges in public health, contributing to healthcare decision-making, policy, and management.

Geri Cramer, PhD, recently completed her doctorate in Population Health while working as a research analyst at the Center for Health Policy and Healthcare Research. She is now a health economist for Boston Scientific.

Recent selected publications

Young, G., S. Flaherty, D. Zepeda, J. Griffith, and K. Morteale. “Effects of Physician Experience, Specialty Training, and Self-Referral on Inappropriate Diagnostic Imaging” *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 2020; 35: 1661 – 1667.

Paulsen, R., **A. Modestino, M. Hasan, M. Alam**, L. Young, and **G. Young**. “Patterns of Buprenorphine/Naloxone Prescribing. An Analysis of Claims Data from Massachusetts” *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 2020; 46: 216 – 223.

Cramer, G., G. Young, J. McGuire, S. Singh, and D. Kim. “Evidence that Collaborative Action between Local Health Departments and Nonprofit Hospitals Helps Foster Healthy Behaviors in Communities: A Multilevel Study” *BMC Health Services Research*, 2021; 12: 1 – 12.

Zepeda, D., **G. Nyaga**, and **G. Young**. “On the Relations between Focus, Experience, and Hospital Performance” *Health Care Management Review*, 2021; 46: 289 – 298.

Young, G., D. Zepeda, **S. Flaherty**, and **N. Thai**. “Hospital Employment of Physicians in Massachusetts is Associated with Inappropriate Diagnostic Imaging” *Health Affairs*, 2021; 40: 710 – 718.

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Hasan, M., G. Young, P. Mohite, J. Shi, L. Young, S. Weiner, and M. Alam. "A Machine Learning Based Two-Stage Clinical Decision Support System for Predicting Patients' Discontinuation from Opioid Use Disorder Treatment: A Retrospective Observational Study" *BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making*, 2021; 21: 331.

Post, B., E. C. Norton, B. Hollenbeck, T. Buchmueller, and A. W. Ryan. "Hospital-Physician Integration and Medicare's Site-Based Outpatient Payments" *Health Services Research*, 2021; 56: 7 – 15.

Hasan, M., P. Mohite, M. Islam, M. Alam, A. Modestino, A. Peckham, L. Young, and G. Young. "Patterns of Patient Discontinuation from Buprenorphine/Naloxone Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: A Study of a Commercially Insured Population in Massachusetts" *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 2021; 131: 108416.

Santos, T., S. Singh, and **G. Young.** "Medicaid Expansion and Not-for-Profit Hospitals' Financial Status: National and State-Level Estimates Using IRS and CMS Data, 2011 – 2016" *Medical Care Research and Review*, 2022; 79: 448 – 457.

Minegishi, T., **G. Young, K. Madison,** and S. Pizer. "Regional Economic Conditions and Preventable Hospitalization among Older Patients with Diabetes" *Medical Care*, 2022; 60: 212 – 218.

Cramer, G., J. McGuire, and **G. Young.** "Hospitals and Community Benefit Requirements: Perspectives of Community Benefit Administrators in Massachusetts" *Journal of Hospital Management and Health Policy*, 2022; 6: 1 – 16.

Hasan, M., M. Alam, M. Patel, A. J. Shi, L. Young, and G. Young. "Long-Term Patient Outcomes following Buprenorphine/Naloxone Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: A Retrospective Analysis in a Commercially Insured Population" *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 2022; 48: 481 – 491.



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