

KURT R. SWEAT

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School and Hopkins Business of Health Initiative, July 2024 - Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Stanford University, June 2024

DISSERTATION: “*Essays in Market Design and Heart Transplantation*”

COMMITTEE: Alvin Roth, Frank Wolak, Paulo Somaini, Han Hong, Itai Ashlagi

M.A. in Economics, Stanford University, 2020.

B.S. in Mathematics, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2014-2018 (Summa cum Laude).

B.A. in Economics, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2013-2018 (Summa cum Laude).

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Primary fields: Market Design, Health Economics.

Secondary fields: Econometrics, Industrial Organization.

PUBLICATIONS

“Waitlist Mortality for US Children Listed for Heart Transplant in the Current Era,” with Alyssa Power*, Alvin Roth, John C. Dykes, Beth Kaufman, Michael Ma, Sharon Chen, Seth A. Hollander, Elizabeth Profita, David N. Rosenthal, Lynsey Barkoff, Chiu-Yu Chen, Ryan R. Davies, and Christopher S. Almond. Forthcoming, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

RESEARCH PAPERS

Endogenous Priority in Centralized Matching Markets: Evidence from the Heart Transplant Waitlist

Centralized matching markets that prioritize specific participants to achieve certain policy goals are common in practice, but priority is often assigned using endogenous characteristics of participants. In the heart transplant waitlist in the United States, the treatment that a patient receives is used to assign waitlist priority. Policymakers recently changed the prioritization in an attempt to reduce waitlist mortality by assigning higher priority to patients receiving specific treatments previously associated with high waitlist mortality. First, I document a significant response to waitlist incentives in treatments given and transplants that take place. Then, I develop and estimate a structural model of treatment and transplant choices to evaluate the effect of the policy change on patients' outcomes and doctors' decisions. I find three main results from my model. First, there is little change in aggregate survival, and the effect of the change has been mainly redistributive. Second, the change has effectively targeted patients with lower untransplanted survival, with these patients receiving higher expected survival under the current design. Third, the effect on survival is largely driven by changes in the decision to accept/decline offers for transplants rather than directly due to a change in treatment decisions. The policy implications suggest that future designs of the waitlist should disincentivize declining offers for transplants.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS (*indicates co-first authorship for medical journals)

“Signaling or Muddling in Assignment Mechanisms: An Application to the Heart Transplant Waitlist,” with Nikhil Agarwal, Charles Hodgson, and Paulo Somaini.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

D. M. TORPOCO RIVERA, K.R. SWEAT, B. KAUFMAN, R. KAMENY, A. BURGART, M. MILLER, E. PROFITA, S. HOLLANDER, C.S. ALMOND (APRIL 2023). “Racial and Geographic Disparities in Utilization of Listing by Exception Among US Children Listed for Heart Transplantation.” International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, 43rd Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, Poster Session 3: Cardiology.

D. M. TORPOCO RIVERA, K.R. SWEAT, B. KAUFMAN, J. DYKES, J. MURRAY, T. NASIROV, A. BURGART, M. MILLER, R. KAMENY, C.S. ALMOND (APRIL 2023). “Racial Disparities in the Use of Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs) in US Children Listed for Heart Transplantation.” International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, 43rd Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, Poster Session 3: Cardiology.

M. IQBAL, K.R. SWEAT, J.C. DYKES, M. MA, L. MARTIN, D.N. ROSENTHAL, C.S. ALMOND (APRIL 2022). “Pediatric VAD Growth in the US: What Factors May be Driving Growth Jumps?” International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, 42nd Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, Poster Session 3: Pediatrics.

K.R. SWEAT, B. KAUFMAN, L. BARKOFF, C. CHEN, E. PROFITA, E. LEE, M. ROSENBERG, S. CHEN, S. HOLLANDER, C.S. ALMOND (APRIL 2022). “Impact of the 2018 Adult Heart Allocation Change on Pediatric Donor Offers and Waitlist Outcomes.” International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, 42nd Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, Poster Session 3: Pediatrics.

A. POWER, K.R. SWEAT, J.C. DYKES, M. MA, S. CHEN, J. SCHMIDT, B.D. KAUFMAN, S.A. HOLLANDER, E. PROFITA, D.N. ROSENTHAL, C. CHEN, C.S. ALMOND (APRIL 2021). “Waitlist Mortality for Children Listed for Heart Transplant in the United States: How are We Doing?” International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, 41st Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, Oral Session 31: In The Beginning: Pre-Implant Characteristics and Management in Pediatric Heart Transplantation.

K.R. SWEAT, A. POWER, J.C. DYKES, M. MA, R. DAVIES, S.A. HOLLANDER, E. PROFITA, D.N. ROSENTHAL, C. CHEN, C.S. ALMOND (APRIL 2021). “UNOS Match Runs for Pediatric Heart Transplant Organ Allocation-How Well Do They Sequence Patients Based on Medical Urgency?” International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, 41st Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions, Oral Session 31: In the Beginning: Pre-Implant Characteristics and Management in Pediatric Heart Transplantation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022-23 Teaching Assistant for ECON 271, 1st-year PhD Econometrics, Stanford University.
(Received Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award)

Teaching Assistant for ECON 270, 1st-year PhD Econometrics, Stanford University.

Teaching Assistant for ECON 256, Energy Markets and Policy, Stanford University.

2021-22 Secondary Instructor for BIOS 203, Market Design and Field Experiments for Health Policy and Medicine, Stanford University.

Developed curriculum and taught course intended for medical students, medical doctors in residency, health policy doctoral students, and biology doctoral students.

2015-18 Supplemental Instruction for MATH 182, Calculus II, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Supplemental Instruction for MATH 283, Calculus III, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

2023-24 Leonard W. Ely and Shirley R. Ely Graduate Student Fellowship.

2022-23 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (ECON 271).