

**Yashna Nandan**  
ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

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**EDUCATION**

**PhD Candidate in Economics**, University of California San Diego, June 2025 (Expected)

*Committee: Jeffrey Clemens (Co-Chair), Itzik Fadlon (Co-Chair), Prashant Bharadwaj, Julie Cullen, and Todd Gilmer*

**MS in Economics**, University of San Diego, 2021

**BS in Economics**, Pomona College, 2017

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**FIELDS**

Health Economics  
Public Economics

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**REFERENCES**

Jeffrey Clemens, Associate Professor, University of California, San Diego, [j1clemens@ucsd.edu](mailto:j1clemens@ucsd.edu)

Itzik Fadlon, Associate Professor, University of California, San Diego, [fadlon@ucsd.edu](mailto:fadlon@ucsd.edu)

Prashant Bharadwaj, Professor, University of California, San Diego, [prbharadwaj@ucsd.edu](mailto:prbharadwaj@ucsd.edu)

Julie Cullen, Professor, University of California, San Diego, [jbcullen@ucsd.edu](mailto:jbcullen@ucsd.edu)

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**JOB MARKET PAPER**

Financial Incentives in End-of-Life Care: Evidence from Hospice Providers

**Abstract:** *End-of-life expenditures account for 25% of all Medicare spending. Over the past few decades, hospice care, which provides palliative rather than curative care at the end of life, has increased in prominence, being used by 47% of Medicare decedents in 2021. The simultaneous increase in hospice expenditures during this period has resulted in several policy attempts to rein in spending. In this paper, I study hospice provider responses to a 2016 reform which decreased the profitability of long stays relative to short stays. Using variation in exposure to the policy and a difference-in-differences strategy, I find that the policy resulted in a 9% reduction in the share of long stays for more exposed hospices. The margins of response are heterogeneous across hospice type, with nonprofit hospices exhibiting larger responses through the admissions margin and for-profit hospices exhibiting larger responses through the discharge margin. At the patient level, in a sample of Medicare beneficiaries diagnosed with Alzheimer's/dementia, I document a 7% reduction in hospice admission for those made less profitable by the policy, suggesting meaningful impacts on access to hospice care.*

## **WORKING PAPERS**

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Physician Practice Preferences and Healthcare Expenditures: Evidence from Commercial Payers (with Jeffrey Clemens, PT Leger, and Robert Town)

**Abstract:** *We examine the relationship between physician preferences and both the intensity and cost of care delivered to commercially insured heart attack patients. We match survey data on physician preferences, collected by Cutler, Skinner, Stern, and Wennberg (2019) (CSSW), to medical claims data from the Health Care Cost Institute, which spans over 50 million insurance beneficiaries. In contrast to CSSW, who find strong correlations between aggressive practice preferences and both expenditure and utilization for the Medicare population, we find relationships that are both economically and statistically smaller in magnitude within the commercially insured population. Variations in commercial insurers' prices appear to play an important mediating role.*

Gender and Refereeing in Environmental Economics (with Prashant Bharadwaj, Mathew Neidell, and Sheila Olmstead)

**Abstract:** *We add to the understanding of DEI within the field of environmental economics by examining gender differences in a ubiquitous task in academia that has a large public goods component and where private rewards are uncertain: refereeing. We use the entire universe of submissions to JAERE from 2014-2021 in our analysis, assigning gender based on names of editors and referees. Using manuscript fixed effects and controlling for referee experience, we find that male and female referees in JAERE are similar on several dimensions. An important difference is when referees are late submitting a report, female referees are late by fewer days, and this effect is more pronounced when the handling editor is more senior. Since nearly all other dimensions of the report are the same, we interpret this as female referees putting in more effort conditional on being late. Because perceived reputational consequences are likely most salient along the dimension of lateness rather than other aspects of refereeing which are more subjective (e.g., rejection decisions, word count, etc.), this behavior is consistent with a model in which female referees perceive greater reputational costs for submitting late referee reports.*

## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

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State Policies, Physician Flight, and Maternity Care Deserts

National Legalization and Local Regulation: Evidence from Reproductive Health (with Itzik Fadlon and Nicole Maestas)

Effects of Elderly Health Shocks on Family Labor Force Participation (with Maria Polyakova and Victoria Udalova)

## **RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD**

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Research Assistant, Maria Polyakova, Stanford University

Research Assistant, Itzik Fadlon, UCSD

Research Assistant, Jeffrey Clemens, UCSD

Research Professional, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, 2017-2019

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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Teaching Assistant, UCSD, Economics of Health Producers, Jeffrey Clemens, Fall 2021, Fall 2023, Winter 2024

Teaching Assistant, UCSD, Econometrics B, Maria Candido, Spring 2023, Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant, UCSD, Market Imperfections and Policy, Meredith Crane, Fall 2022

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

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UCSD TA Excellence Award - \$500  
UCSD Clive Granger Research Fellowship - \$3,000  
UCSD Diversity Research Fellowship - \$5,000  
UCSD Academic Senate Grant - \$15,000  
Commonwealth Fund Grant - \$17,250  
Jacobs Social Impact Fellowship - \$7,000  
California Policy Lab Seed Grant - \$3,000  
Yankelovich Center for Social Science Research Seed Grant - \$2,500  
Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, UCSD 2021  
Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, UCSD 2020  
Regents Fellowship, UCSD 2019  
Lorne D. Cook Memorial Award in Economics, Pomona College 2017

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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*Conference Presentations*

Discussant, Southern California Association of Applied Economics  
Discussant, UC San Diego 21st Century India Center Seminar

*Mentorship*

Mentor, UCSD STARS Program

*Service*

Referee, Journal of Health Economics

**SOFTWARE SKILLS**

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STATA, SQL, R

**OTHER INFORMATION**

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Citizenship: United States