

Alden Cheng

Email: alden15@nber.org

Website: <https://aldencheng.com>

Employment

National Bureau of Economic Research Postdoctoral Research Associate	2023-
Gies College of Business, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Gies Health Initiatives Research Scholar	2023-

Prior Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Economics PhD, Economics	2017-2023
University of California, Berkeley BA, Applied Mathematics, Economics, Statistics <i>Highest Distinction in General Scholarship</i>	2012-2016

Publications

- Mixed Beam Murine Harderian Gland Tumorigenesis: Predicted Dose-Effect Relationships if neither Synergism nor Antagonism Occurs (with Nopphon Siranart, Eleanor A. Blakely, Naval Handa, and Rainer K. Sachs). *Radiation Research*, 2016.

Research Papers

- [Patient Peer Effects: Evidence from Nursing Home Room Assignments](#) (with Martin Hackmann)
- [Barriers to Choosing High-Quality Healthcare Providers: Evidence from the Nursing Home Market](#)
- [Racial Segregation and Disparities Across Nursing Homes: Mechanisms, Interactions, and Policy Tradeoffs](#)
- [Estimation of Regression Discontinuity and Kink Designs with Multiple Running Variables](#) [R Code]
- [Selection on Unobservables in Discrete Choice Models](#)

Research in Progress

- Peer Effects in the Workplace: Evidence from the Illinois Workplace Wellness Study (with Damon Jones, David Molitor, and Julian Reif)
- Economics of Threshold-Based Regulations: Evidence from Nursing Home Staffing Mandates (with Riley League)
- Challenges in Measuring Mental Health Trends

Past Work

- [Cigarette Consumption and Tax Salience](#)

Invited Presentations

Annual Health Economics Conference	2026
Midwest Economics Association Conference	
NBER Economics of Chronic Disease (scheduled)	
NBER Health and Healthcare Variations across the Population (scheduled)	
American Society of Health Economists (scheduled)	
Contributed talk, CausNetS (Satellite of NetSci 2026) (scheduled)	
University of Illinois Chicago	2025
Imperial College London	
Midwest Econometrics Group Conference	
Advances with Field Experiments	
Indiana University Bloomington	2024
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	
American Society of Health Economists	
Midwest Health Economics Conference	
University of Massachusetts Amherst (online)	
Seoul National University	2023
Yonsei University	
International Health Economics Association Webinar	

Professional Service

Referee: American Economic Review; American Economic Review: Insights; Review of Economics and Statistics; American Economic Journal: Economic Policy; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Health

Economics; American Journal of Health Economics; B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy; Review of Economics of the Household

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

Sahin (1963) Presidential Fellowship, MIT	2017
Mark A. Schimbor Prize: Best Undergraduate Research in Economics, UC Berkeley	2016
Steve Goldman Memorial Prize: Highest Academic Achievement in Economics, UC Berkeley	2016
University Medal Finalist, UC Berkeley	2016
Percy Lionel Davis Award: Excellence in Scholarship in Mathematics, UC Berkeley	2016
Dean's Honors, UC Berkeley	2013-2015

Relevant Positions

Research Assistant to Professor Nikhil Agarwal	2018
Research Assistant to Professor Amy Finkelstein	2017
Research Assistant to Professor David Card	2016
Research Assistant to Professor Stefano DellaVigna	2016

Teaching

14.01 Principles of Microeconomics Teaching Assistant to Professor Sara Ellison	2022
14.01 Principles of Microeconomics Teaching Assistant to Professor Jonathan Gruber	2020
14.30 Introduction to Statistical Methods in Economics Teaching Assistant to Professor Alberto Abadie	2020