

OLIVIA ZHAO

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Academic Appointments

Faculty Fellow, Brown University School of Public Health (Dept. of Health Services, Policy & Practice)	Providence, RI 2026-2028
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Education

Harvard University (Harvard Business School) PhD Health Policy & Management <i>Dissertation: "Economics of Prescription Drugs: Innovation, Payment, and Prescribing"</i> Advisors: Leemore Dafny, Amitabh Chandra, Leila Agha, Mark Shepard	Boston, MA 2026
University of Oxford MPhil Economics, 2018 Marshall Scholarship	Oxford, UK 2020
Massachusetts Institute of Technology BS Economics	Cambridge, MA 2018

Research interests

Health economics, innovation, pharmaceuticals industry, health policy

Publications

1. **Zhao O**, C San Soucie, DA Rauch, CL Cifra, L Lee, N Beaulieu, D Cutler, and AT Chien. National Trends in Market Competition for Hospital-Based Pediatric Services: 2011-2018. *Health Services Research*. 2026;61(2). doi:10.1111/1475-6773.70102
2. San Soucie, C, ND Beaulieu, JD Buxbaum, D Cutler, JK Leyenaar, SC McBride, **O Zhao**, and AT Chien. A National Analysis of General Pediatric Inpatient Unit Closures and Openings, 2011–2018. *Hospital Pediatrics* 14, no. 11 (November 2024): 899–908. doi: 10.1542/hpeds.2024-007754
3. **Zhao O** and AD Sinaiko. Effects of a Real-Time Information-Based Intervention on Physician Prescribing Behavior. *Academy of Management Proceedings*. 2024.
4. Sinaiko AD, CE Sloan, MJ Soto, **O Zhao**, C Lin, FR Goss. Clinician Response to Patient Medication Prices Displayed in the Electronic Health Record. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2023;183(10):1172-75. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.3307
5. Vogel M, **O Zhao**, WB Feldman, A Chandra, AS Kesselheim, BN Rome. Cost of Exempting Sole Orphan Drugs From Medicare Negotiation. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2024;184(1):63-69. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.6293

Working Papers and Work in Progress

- Kong E and **O Zhao**. Market Incentives and the Drug Development Pipeline: Evidence from Antibiotics. SSRN Working Paper. 2023. doi:10.2139/ssrn.4676384
- "How Patient Assistance Programs Can Benefit Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Employers: The Case of Copay Maximizers," with Leemore Dafny
- "The Doctor Will See Your Cost-Sharing Now: Price Transparency for Prescription Drugs," with Anna D. Sinaiko

Invited Seminars and Presentations, Awards

2026-2027	American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Annual Conference, American Economic Association ASSA Annual Meeting (forthcoming)
2025-2026	ASHEcon Annual Conference, Southeastern Health Economics Study Group Conference, Cato Health Policy Workshop, NBER Productivity Seminar, Boston University Technology & Policy Research Initiative Seminar, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy (Health Policy & Management), Brown University School of Public Health (Health Services, Policy & Practice), Yale University School of Public Health (Health Policy & Management)
2024-2025	Boston University Technology & Policy Research Initiative IP Day, ASHEcon Annual Conference, Academy of Management (AOM) Annual Meeting,

AOM Health Care Management Division Best Paper Award: “Effects of a Real-Time Information-Based Intervention on Physician Prescribing Behavior” with Anna D. Sinaiko

2023-2024	ASHEcon Annual Conference, AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, NBER Productivity Seminar, Informs Healthcare Conference, Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting
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Professional Activities

- Ad hoc reviewer: *Journal of Health Economics*
- Affiliations: American Society of Health Economists

Teaching

Transforming Health Care Delivery (Harvard Business School, Ariel Stern)	2024
U.S. Healthcare Industry and Regulatory Policy (Harvard Kennedy School, Leemore Dafny)	2023, 2022
<i>Earned Distinction in Student Teaching</i>	
Research in Global Health and Health Policy (Harvard College, David Cutler)	2023
Essentials of the Profession, Health Policy section leader (Harvard Medical School)	2023, 2025
Analytic Frameworks for Public Policy (Harvard Kennedy School, Richard Zeckhauser)	2022, 2021

Selected Citations

The Beacon. “Children’s Mercy seeks massive expansion of its downtown campus. Here’s why.” April 14, 2026. <https://thebeaconnews.org/stories/2026/04/14/childrens-mercy-seeks-major-expansion-of-its-downtown-campus/>

Congressional Budget Office. “How Changes to Funding for the NIH and Changes in the FDA’s Review Times Would Affect the Development of New Drugs.” July 18, 2025. <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2025-07/61373-Drugs.pdf>

Other activities

MIT Presidential Committee on Distinguished Fellowships	2021-present
HBS Wyss Awards for Excellence in Mentoring Selection Committee	2022-2025
HBS Program for Research in Markets & Organizations (PRIMO) Advisor	2023

Miscellaneous

Health Policy PhD Program Joan P. Curhan Citizenship Award	2026
Citizenship: USA	