

CURRICULUM VITAE

Robert J. Besaw

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EDUCATION

2025 (exp.)

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Policy & Health Services Research

2010

Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA
Master of Public Health in Behavioral Sciences

2008

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Health Studies & Anthropology
Honors College; Specialization in Bioethics & Society

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Prescription drug policy, access to medicines, cancer outcomes research, pharmacoeconomics, financial toxicity, palliative and end-of-life care

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021-present

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Department of Health Policy
Graduate Research Assistant

2018-2021

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Cancer Clinical Trials Office, Boston, MA
Clinical Research Program Manager, Gastrointestinal Malignancies, Gynecologic Oncology, and Innovation in Cancer Program (2019-2021)
Clinical Trials Specialist, Gastrointestinal Malignancies (2018-2019)

2016-2018

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Department of Dermatology, Boston, MA
Research Manager, Dermatologic Oncology Research Program

2010-2015

University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health, Washington, DC
Policy Analyst, Forum for Collaborative HIV Research

2008-2010

Emory University RSPH, Department of Health Policy and Management
Graduate Research Assistant

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2022

Vanderbilt University
Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Protocol Development I* (PUBH 5527)

Fall 2009

Emory University RSPH
Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Behavioral Research Methods* (BSHE 530)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Articles in Refereed Journals:

1. Le ST, Karia PS, Vollenhoven BJ, **Besaw RJ**, Feltmate CM, Schmults CD. Evaluation of AJCC and an alternative tumor staging system for primary vulvar squamous cell carcinoma. *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network*. 2018;16(1):42-49.

2. Wang DM, Morgan FC, **Besaw RJ**, Schmults CD. An ecological study of skin biopsies and skin cancer treatment procedures in the United States Medicare population, 2000 to 2015. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2018;78(1):47-53.
3. Nguyen B, Karia PS, Hills VM, **Besaw RJ**, Schmults CD. Impact of National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines on case selection and outcomes for sentinel lymph node biopsy in thin melanoma. *Dermatologic Surgery*. 2018;44(4):493-501.
4. Wang DM, **Besaw RJ**, Karia PS, Schmults CD. Accuracy of death certification in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma: A retrospective case review. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2018;78(2):423-425.
5. Wang DM, Morgan FC, **Besaw RJ**, Schmults CD. Dermatologists are the primary treating physicians of skin cancer in the United States Medicare population. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2018;79(3):578-580.
6. Wang DM, Kraft S, Rohani P, Murphy GF, **Besaw RJ**, Karia PS, Morgan FC, Schmults CD. Association of nodal metastasis and mortality with vermillion vs cutaneous lip location in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the lip. *JAMA Dermatology*. 2018;154(6):701-707.
7. Ruiz ES, Morgan FC, Zigler CM, **Besaw RJ**, Schmults CD. National skin cancer expenditure analysis in the United States Medicare population, 2013. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2019;80(1):275-278.
8. Ruiz ES, Karia PS, **Besaw R**, Schmults CD. Performance of the American Joint Committee on Cancer Staging Manual, 8th Edition vs the Brigham and Women's Hospital Tumor Classification System for cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. *JAMA Dermatology*. 2019;155(7):819-825.
9. Okhovat JP, Karia PS, Mora A, Morgan FC, **Besaw RJ**, Schmults CD. Evaluation of pre-operative quality of life in nonmelanoma skin cancer patients. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2019;81(5):1201-1202.
10. Morgan FC, Ruiz ES, Karia PS, **Besaw RJ**, Neel VA, Schmults CD. Factors predictive of recurrence, metastasis, and death from primary basal cell carcinoma 2 cm or larger in diameter. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2020;83(3):832-838.
11. Mulvaney PM, Piris A, **Besaw RJ**, Schmults CD. Diagnostic biopsy via in-office frozen sections for clinical nonmelanoma skin cancer. *Dermatologic Surgery*. 2021;47(2):194-199.
12. Morgan FC, Karia PS, Ruiz ES, **Besaw RJ**, Schmults CD. Brigham and Women's Hospital tumor classification system for basal cell carcinoma identifies patients with risk of metastasis and death. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2021;85(3):582-587.
13. Yeh JC, Urman AR, **Besaw RJ**, Dodge LE, Lee KA, Buss MK. Different associations between inpatient or outpatient palliative care and end-of-life outcomes for hospitalized patients with cancer. *JCO Oncology Practice*. 2022;18(4): e516-e524.
14. Fraga SD, **Besaw RJ**, Murad F, Schmults CD, Waldman A. Complete margin assessment versus sectional assessment in surgically excised keratinocyte carcinoma: A systematic review & meta-analysis. *Dermatologic Surgery*. 2022;48(7):704-710.
15. Grossman JE, Muthuswamy L, Huang L, Akshinthala D, Perea S, Gonzalez RS, Tsai LL, Cohen J, Bockorny B, Bullock AJ, Schlechter B, Peters MLB, Conahan C, Narasimhan S, Lim C, Davis RB, **Besaw R**, Sawhney MS, Pleskow D, Berzin TM, Smith M, Kent TS, Callery M, Muthuswamy SK, Hidalgo M. Organoid sensitivity correlates with therapeutic response in patients with pancreatic cancer. *Clinical Cancer Research*. 2022;28(4):708-718.
16. Desai N, **Besaw RJ**, Sedhom R, Qasim Hussaini SM, Blaes AH, Dusetzina SB, Gupta A. Estimated out-of-pocket costs for cancer-directed and supportive care medications for older adults with advanced pancreatic cancer. *Journal of Geriatric Oncology*. 2022;13(5):754-757.

17. Mattingly TJ, Everson J, **Besaw RJ**, Whitmore C, Henderson S, Dusetzina SB. "Worth it if you could afford it": Patient perspectives on integrating real-time benefit tools into drug cost conversations. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. 2023;71(5):1627-1637.
18. Dusetzina SB, **Besaw RJ**, Whitmore CC, Mattingly II TJ, Sinaiko AD, Keating NL, Everson J. Cost-related medication nonadherence and desire for medication cost information among adults aged 65 and older in the United States in 2022. *JAMA Network Open*. 2023;6(5):e2314211.
19. Everson J, **Besaw RJ**, Whitmore CC, Mattingly II TJ, Sinaiko AD, Keating NL, Everson NS, Dusetzina SB. Quality of medication cost conversations and interest in future cost conversations among older adults. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. 2023;38(16):3482-3489.
20. **Besaw RJ**, Fry CE. Association between Medicaid monthly prescription drug caps and medications for opioid use disorder, 2010-2021. *Under Review*.

Perspectives & Editorials

1. **Besaw RJ**, Dusetzina SB. Persistent prescription drug affordability challenges for Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions—What goes up must come down? *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2022;182(2):195-196.

Case Reports

1. **Besaw RJ**, Smith MP, Zerillo JA, Bullock AJ. Chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction in a patient with metastatic gastro-oesophageal junction cancer receiving treatment with pembrolizumab. *BMJ Case Reports*. 2019;12(12):e232388.
2. **Besaw RJ**, Terra AR, Malvar G, Chapman TR, Hertan LM, Schlechter BL. Durable response to PD-1 blockade in a patient with metastatic pancreatic undifferentiated carcinoma with osteoclastic giant cells. *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network*. 2021;19(3):247-252.

Non-Peer-Reviewed

1. Bockorny B, Muthuswamy L, Huang L, Hadisurya M, Lim CM, Tsai LL, Gill RR, Wei JL, Bullock AJ, Grossman JE, **Besaw RJ**, Narasimhan S, Tao WT, Perea S, Sawhney MS, Freedman SD, Hidalgo M, Iliuk A, Muthuswamy SK. Employing circulating extracellular vesicles for biomarker discovery in pancreatic cancer. *medRxiv*. 2023 Mar 20:2023.03.13.23287216. doi: 10.1101/2023.03.13.23287216.
2. Master's thesis: Decision-making regarding adjuvant use in influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccines during pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza. Advisors: Jessica McDermott Sales & Saad B. Omer.

Posters and Presentations

1. Ruiz ES, Morgan FC, **Besaw R**, Zigler C, Schmults C. National and regional skin cancer expenditure analysis in the United States Medicare population, 2013. Poster at American College of Mohs Surgery Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (April 2017)
2. Fraga SD, **Besaw RJ**, Schmults CD, Waldman A. Complete margin assessment techniques versus surgical excision for the treatment and reconstruction of non-melanoma skin cancers: A systematic review and pooled analysis. Poster at American College of Mohs Surgery Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (May 2018)
3. Wang DM, Kraft S, Rohani P, Murphy GF, **Besaw RJ**, Karia PS, Morgan FC, Schmults CD. Association of nodal metastasis with vermillion lip location in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the lip. Poster at International Investigative Dermatology, Orlando, FL (May 2018)
4. Morgan FC, Ruiz ES, Karia PS, **Besaw RJ**, Neel VA, Schmults CD. Risk factors of recurrence, metastasis, and death from basal cell carcinoma and a proposed tumor (T) classification system. Poster at International Investigative Dermatology, Orlando, FL (May 2018)
5. Le ST, Karia PS, Vollenhoven BJ, **Besaw RJ**, Feltmate CM, Schmults CD. Evaluation of AJCC and an alternative tumour classification system for primary vulvar squamous cell carcinoma. Poster at Australasian College of Dermatologists Annual Scientific Meeting, Gold Coast, Queensland, AUS (May 2018)

6. Grossman JE, Huang L, Muthuswamy L, Perea S, Akshinthala D, Gonzalez R, Tsai L, Cohen J, Sawhney M, Pleskow D, Berzin TM, Bockorny B, Bullock A, Schlechter BL, Peters MLB, Conahan C, Narasimhan S, Lim C, Davis R, **Besaw R**, Smith M, Kent T, Callery M, Muthuswamy SK, Hidalgo M. Organoid sensitivity in pancreatic cancer correlates with clinical response to treatment and reveals utility for reducing toxicity: Preliminary results from the HOPE trial. Poster at AACR Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (April 2020)
7. Urman AR, Buss MK, **Besaw RJ**, Dodge LE, Lee KA, Yeh JC. Differential impact of inpatient and outpatient palliative care on end-of-life outcomes in hospitalized patients with cancer. Abstract at ASCO Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (June 2021)
8. Urman AR, Buss MK, **Besaw RJ**, Dodge LE, Lee KA, Yeh JC. Differential impact of inpatient and outpatient palliative care on end-of-life outcomes in hospitalized patients with cancer. Poster at ASCO Quality Care Symposium, Boston, MA (September 2021)
9. Bockorny B, Muthuswamy L, Huang L, Hadisurya M, Tsai L, Gill RR, Wei J, Bullock AJ, Grossman JE, **Besaw RJ**, Lim CM, Narasimhan S, Perea S, Sawhney M, Tao WA, Freedman S, Hidalgo M, Iliuk A, Muthuswamy S. Large scale proteomics of circulating extracellular vesicles to reveal novel biomarkers for pancreatic cancer. Poster at ASCO Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium, San Francisco, CA (January 2022)
10. **Besaw RJ**, Everson J, Whitmore CC, Mattingly TJ, Sinaiko AD, Keating NL, Everson NS, Dusetzina SB. Quality of Medication Cost Conversations and Interest in Future Cost Conversations Among Older Adults. Poster at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA (June 2023).
11. **Besaw RJ**, Fry CE. Association between State Medicaid Drug Caps and Prescriptions for Medications for Opioid Use Disorders, 2010-2021. Podium Presentation at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA (June 2023).

HONORS & AWARDS

2008	Graduated with Honors, MSU
2004-2007	Dean's List, MSU
2007	National Residence Hall Honorary Bronze Pin, MSU: highest honor awarded to individuals providing leadership and direction to campus organizations

PROFESSIONAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

Professional & University Service:

- 2022- President (former VP) & Co-founder, Vanderbilt University AcademyHealth Student Chapter
- 2022 Abstract Reviewer, 2023 Vanderbilt MPH Practicum Colloquium
- 2017-2021 New England Region Interviewer, Emory University Alumni Interview Program
- 2012-2015 Managing Editor, *Annals of the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research*
- 2009-2010 Vice President (former Secretary), Rollins Healthcare Association, Emory University RSPH
- 2006-2008 President (former VP), National Residence Hall Honorary, Beaumont Chapter, MSU
- 2005-2008 Honors College Programming Board, MSU Honors College

Ad hoc Reviewer:

- *F1000Research*
- *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network*
- *Journal of Patient Experience*

Memberships:

- Tennessee Public Health Association, 2023-
- AcademyHealth, 2022-
- American Society of Clinical Oncology, 2022-