

ASHLEY LEECH, PhD, MS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Health Policy
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
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RESEARCH FIELDS

Methodological: Decision analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, health economics, health policy, health services research

Topical: Maternal and infant health; pre-conception planning, pregnancy, postnatal and infant care

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2018-Present **Vanderbilt University School of Medicine** (Nashville, Tennessee)
Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy

POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING

2016-2018 **Post-Doctoral Fellow in Health Economics**, Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health (CEVR), Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies, Tufts University School of Medicine/Tufts Medical Center (Boston, Massachusetts)
Mentors: Peter Neumann, Josh Cohen, Pei Jung Lin, Tara Lavelle, David Kim

EDUCATION

2016 **PhD, Health Services Research, Boston University School of Public Health**
(Boston, Massachusetts)
Dissertation: Examining Access and Cost Implications for HIV Serodiscordant Couples Seeking Conception Services: An Integrative Approach
Mentors: Ben Linas, Mari-Lynn Drainoni, Cindy Christiansen, James Burgess

2008 **MS, African Studies, University of Oxford**
(Oxford, England)
Dissertation: Writing Gender: Representations of Women in Margery Perham's Personal Papers. *Dissertation Mark: Distinction*

2007 **BA, Political Science, English Literature, Magna Cum Laude, Lycoming College**
(Williamsport, Pennsylvania)
Dissertation: The Christian Right: A Comprehensive Study of the Influence of Religiosity on Senate Roll Call Voting Behavior

2005 **American Government, Summa Cum Laude, American University**
(Washington, DC)
Dissertation: Social Security Reform: A Comprehensive Review of Personal Retirement Accounts
- Legislative Intern for United States Senator Arlen Specter (2006) in Washington, D.C.; U.S. Foreign Policy and Economics: Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

FUNDED RESEARCH – PRESENT

- 2020-Present NIH/NIDA (1 K01 DA050740-01, Leech)
Total: \$860,390
“Advancing Treatment Outcomes for Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorder”
Funding period: 04/01/2020-03/31/2025
Role: Principal Investigator, 9.00 calendar months
- 2018-Present NIH/NIDA (1 R01 DA045729-01, Patrick)
Total: \$474,596
“Improving Access to Treatment for Women with Opioid Use Disorder”
Funding period: 4/15/2018 – 01/31/2022
Role: Co-investigator, 1.2 calendar years
- 2019-Present NIH/NINDS (1 R01 NS113171, Trevathan),
Total: \$856,096 (Yr 1: DC), \$1,138,378 (Yr 1: Total)
“Bridging the Childhood Epilepsy Treatment Gap in Africa (BRIDGE)”
Funding period: 07/01/2019 – 06/30/2024
Role: Co-investigator, 1.2 calendar years

FUNDED RESEARCH – COMPLETED

- 2018-2020 CDC/Tennessee Department of Health (GR1959823, Limper)
Total: \$93,600
“Evaluation of TDOH’s statewide efforts to improve screening and reduce morbidity and mortality related to cancers across the state”
Funding period: 8/1/2018 – 6/30/2020
Role: Co-investigator

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Nguyen JT, Cole AL, **Leech AA**, Wood WA, Dusetzina SB. Cost-Effectiveness of First-Line Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Therapy Initiation Strategies for Chronic Myeloid Leukemia. *Value in Health*. 2020 October; 23(10): 1292-1299. doi: 10.1016/j.jval.2020.05.019.

Leech AA, Christiansen C, Linas BP, Jacobsen DM, Morin I, Drainoni M-L. Healthcare practitioner experiences and willingness to prescribe pre-exposure prophylaxis in the US. *PLOS One*. 2020 September 3; 15(9): e0238375. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0238375>

Patrick SW, Richards M, McNeer E, Dupont W, Buntin MB, Martin PR, Davis MM, Davis C, Hartman K, **Leech AA**, Lovell KS, Stein BD, Cooper WO. Barriers to Accessing Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Among Pregnant Women. *JAMA Network Open*. 2020 August 14; 3(8): e2013456. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.13456.

Lessing NL, Zuckerman SL, Lazaro A, **Leech AA**, Leidinger A, Rutabasibwa N, Shabani HK, Mangat HS, Härtl R. Cost-effectiveness of operating on traumatic spinal injuries in low-middle income countries: a preliminary report from a major East African referral center. *Global Spine Journal*. 2020 August 17: 1-9. doi: 10.1177/2192568220944888.

Leech AA, Biancarelli DL, Aaron E, Miller ES, Coleman J, Anderson PL, Nkwihoreze H, Condrón B, Sullivan M. HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for Conception among HIV Serodiscordant Couples in the United States: A Cohort Study. *AIDS Patient Care STDs*. 2020 July 6; 34(7): 295-302. doi: 10.1089/apc.2020.0005.

Leech AA, Cooper MO, McNeer E, Scott TA, Patrick SW. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in the United States, 2004–2016. *Health Affairs*. 2020 May; 39(5): 764–767. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2019.00814.

Leech AA, Neumann PJ, Cohen JT, Jagasia M, Dusetzina SB. Balancing Value with Affordability: Cell Immunotherapy for Cancer Treatment in the U.S. *Oncologist*. 2020 May 9. doi: 10.1634/theoncologist.2020-0025

Leech AA, Kim DD, Cohen JT, Neumann PJ. Are Low and Middle-Income Countries Prioritising High-Value Healthcare Interventions? *BMJ Global Health*. 2020 February 4; 5(2): doi: 10.1136/bmjgh-2019-001850.

Lin P-J, D’Cruz B, **Leech AA**, Neumann PJ, Aigbogun MS, Oberdhan D, Lavelle T. Family and Caregiver Spillover Effects in Cost-Utility Analyses of Alzheimer’s Disease Interventions. *Pharmacoeconomics*. 2019 April; 37(4): 597–608. doi: 10.1007/s40273-019-00788-3.

Leech AA and Dusetzina SB. Cost-Effective but Unaffordable: The CAR T Conundrum. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2018 Dec 17. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djy195.

Leech AA, Burgess J, Sullivan M, Kuohung W, Horný M, Drainoni M-L, Christiansen C, Linas BP. The Cost-Effectiveness of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention During Conception in the United States. *AIDS*. 2018 Nov 28; 32(18): 2787–2798. doi: 10.1097/QAD.0000000000002014.

Drainoni M-L, Biancarelli DL, **Leech AA**, Sullivan M, Bazzi AR. Implementing a Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Intervention for Safer Conception among HIV Serodiscordant Couples: Recommendations for Health Care Providers. *J Health Dispar Res Pract*. 2018 Summer; 11(2): 19–33.

Leech AA, Kim DD, Cohen JT, Neumann PJ. Use and Misuse of Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Thresholds in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Trends in Cost-per-DALY Studies. *Value in Health*. 2018 Jul, Epub 2018 Feb 21; 21(7): 759–761. doi: 10.1016/j.jval.2017.12.016.

Thokala P, Ochalek J, **Leech AA**, Tong T. Cost-Effectiveness Thresholds: The Past, the Present and the Future. *Pharmacoeconomics*. 2018 May; 36(5): 509–522. doi: 10.1007/s40273-017-0606-1.

Leech AA, Bortoletto P, Christiansen C, Drainoni M-L, Linas BP, Roeca C, et al. Assessing access to assisted reproductive services for serodiscordant couples with human immunodeficiency virus infection. *Fertil Steril*. 2018 Mar, Epub Feb 7; 109(3): 473–477. doi: 10.1016/j.fertnstert.2017.11.039.

Bazzi AR, **Leech AA**, Biancarelli DL, Sullivan M, Drainoni M-L. Experiences Using Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for Safer Conception Among HIV Serodiscordant Heterosexual Couples in the United States. *AIDS Patient Care STDs*. 2017 Aug, Epub Jul 18; 31(8): 348–355. doi: 10.1089/apc.2017.0098.

Curtis M, El Ayadi A, Mkumba G, Butrick E, **Leech A**, Geissler J, et al. Association between severe obstetric hemorrhage and HIV status. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet*. 2014 Apr, Epub Jan 14; 125(1): 79–80. doi: 10.1016/j.ijgo.2013.10.010.

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

Goodarz D, Masters WA, Rosettie KL, **Leech AA**, Cohen JT, Webb P, Kranz S, Mozaffarian D on behalf of Cost-Effectiveness Advisory Group. Cost-Effectiveness of Nutrition-Sensitive Food Programs to Reduce Child Mortality in India, Nigeria and Ethiopia. *Under review*.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

Clifford C, Lavelle T. **Leech AA**. A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis on Aneuploidy Screening Among Pregnant Hispanic Women in the United States.

Livermont T, Samuels L, Phillippi J, Zhu Y, **Leech AA**. Association of Substance Use and Postpartum Contraception.

Leech AA, Roberts AA, Dusetzina SB, Patrick SW. Out-Of-Pocket Costs and Prescription Refill of Opioid Agonist Pharmacotherapy Among Privately Insured Adults in the US.

Leech AA, Lin P-J, D’Cruz B, Parsons S, Lavelle T. Family and Caregiver Spillover Effects in Cancer Cost-Effectiveness Analyses.

Sampson C, Zamora B, van Baal P, Cairns J, Chalkidou K, Cubi-Molla P, Devlin N, García-Lorenzo B, Hughes DA, **Leech AA**, Towse A, Watson S. Supply-Side Cost-Effectiveness Thresholds: Questions for Evidence-Based Policy.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Bridging the Childhood Epilepsy Treatment Gap in Africa (BRIDGE): A Protocol for a Cluster Randomized Clinical Trial of Task-Shifted Epilepsy Care in Three Northern Nigerian Cities. 16TH ICNC/49th Annual Child Neurology Society Meeting; San Diego, CA, October 19-23.

Barriers to Accessing Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Among Pregnant Women. National Clinician Scholars Program 2020 Annual Research Meeting; TBD.

Barriers to Accessing Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Among Pregnant Women. AcademyHealth 2020 Annual Research Meeting; Virtual - Online, July 28-August 6, 2020.

Barriers to Accessing Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Among Pregnant Women. Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting; summer webinar series 2020.

An Assessment of Value for Routine Care in Pregnancy. 41st Annual North American Meeting, Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM); Portland, Oregon, October 2019.

Are Low and Middle-Income Countries Prioritizing High-Value Healthcare Interventions? 41st Annual North American Meeting, Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM); Portland, Oregon, October 2019.

Family and Caregiver Health-Related Quality of Life from Cancer: A Systematic Review of the Literature. AcademyHealth 2018 Annual Research Meeting; Seattle, Washington, June 2018

Cost-effectiveness thresholds in published cost-per-DALY studies. 12th World Congress of the International Health Economics Association (iHEA); Boston, Massachusetts, July 2017

Family and Caregiver Spillover Effects in Cancer Cost-Effectiveness Analyses. 39th Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM) Annual Meeting; Pittsburgh, PA, October 2017

Assessing Access to Assisted Reproductive Services for HIV Serodiscordant Couples. American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) Scientific Congress; Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2016

Assessing Access to Assisted Reproductive Services for HIV Serodiscordant Couples. Evan’s Memorial Department of Medicine; Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, October 2016

Cost-Effectiveness of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention During Conception. 9th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Science; Paris, France, July 2017

Family and Caregiver Spillover Effects in Alzheimer’s Disease Cost-Effectiveness Analyses. Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC); London, England, July 2017

Cost-Effectiveness of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention During Conception. Tufts Clinical & Translational Science Poster Competition as part of the 19th Annual Clinical & Translational Science Graduate Program Symposium; Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA, May 2017 *Competition winner*

Adherence to PrEP among HIV negative women attempting conception with HIV positive male partners in the US. International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) Annual Conference; Fort Lauderdale, Florida, May 2016

A unique population: adherence to PrEP among HIV negative women attempting conception with HIV positive male partners in the US. 7th International Workshop on HIV and Women; Seattle, Washington, February 2017

A unique population: Adherence to PrEP among HIV negative women attempting conception with HIV positive male partners in the US. 12th International Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence; Miami, Florida, June 2017

MEDIA

ScienceDaily, Sept. 17, 2020: “Many practitioners are not prescribing HIV prevention medication”
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/09/200917181238.htm>

Discover, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nov. 4, 2020: “Under-prescribing of PrEP is Widespread” <https://discover.vumc.org/2020/11/under-prescribing-of-prep-is-widespread/>

National Institutes of Health HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-Term) Initiative, May 13, 2020: “Research Spotlights | Relevant Reads: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in the United States, 2004-16”

Keet, Einav, Jan. 8, 2019: “Study Explores Cost-Effectiveness of Conception Strategies for HIV Serodiscordant Couples” <https://www.contagionlive.com/news/study-explores-costeffectiveness-of-conception-strategies-for-hiv-serodiscordant-couples>

ISPOR News & Press Releases, July 23, 2018: “Challenging the Status Quo: Report Urges the Use of Local Context to Determine Cost-Effectiveness Thresholds in Low- and Middle-income Countries”
<http://press.ispor.org/index.php/challenging-the-status-quo-report-urges-the-use-of-local-context-to-determine-cost-effectiveness-thresholds-in-low-and-middle-income-countries/>

ASRM Bulletin, Feb. 7, 2018: “Fertility Care for HIV Serodiscordant Couples is More Widely Available” <https://www.asrm.org/news-and-publications/news-and-research/press-releases-and-bulletins/fertility-care-for-hiv-serodiscordant-couples-is-more-widely-available/>

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Professional Affiliations:

Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM)

- Session Chair, 2019

- Education Committee Member, 2021

AcademyHealth

International Health Economics Association (iHEA)

University Service | Affiliations:

MPH review committee

Vanderbilt University’s Pre³ Initiative (preventing adverse pregnancy outcomes and prematurity)

Vanderbilt University’s Center for Child Health Policy

Journal Referees:

Annals of Internal Medicine, Value in Health, Value in Health Regional Issues, Health Services Research, Journal of Patient-Reported Outcomes, Health and Quality of Life Outcomes, MDM Policy and Practice, WHO Bulletin, BMJ Open

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019-Present Instructor, Decision Analysis in Medicine and Public Health, Vanderbilt University
- 2019 Guest lecturer, Public Health Practice: Systems Thinking, Vanderbilt University
- 2017 Guest lecturer, Introduction to Cost-Effectiveness Analysis, Boston University
- 2014-2016 Lecturer/Teaching Assistant, Comparative Health Systems and Policy in Industrialized and BRIC Countries, Boston University
- 2015 Teaching Assistant, Health Care Delivery Systems: Issues and Innovations, Boston University
- 2015 Lecturer, Leadership and Management in Public Health, Boston University
- 2013 Teaching Assistant, American Government for Public Health Students, Boston University

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

- 2019-Present Ben Osher, Medical student, research immersion project, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; Project: Cost-effectiveness of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- 2018-Present Caitlin Clifford, PGY3, OBGYN Resident, Tufts Medical Center; Project: Cost-Effectiveness Analysis on Aneuploidy Screening Among Pregnant Hispanic Women in the United States
- 2018 Mathias Schreiner, Master's 4+1 student, Vanderbilt University; Practicum experience on health policy work related to cost-effectiveness analysis and pregnancy
- 2018 Nicole Quinones, MPH student, thesis committee, Vanderbilt University; Project: Postpartum contraceptive use in the 2011-2015 NSFG
- 2019 Tamee Livermont, MPH student, thesis advisor, Vanderbilt University; Project: Assessment of postpartum contraceptive use in the 2016-2017 CDC PRAMS data
- 2019 Sadie Sommer, MPH student, thesis advisor, Vanderbilt University; Project: Maternal Mortality Committee Reports: A Comparative Review