

## **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  
Dissertation: *Examining Value-based Care and Outcomes for Older Adults with Cancer*  
Dissertation committee: Stacie B. Dusetzina (Chair), Carrie E. Fry, Arjun Gupta, and Andrew D. Wiese
- 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, pharmacoconomics, Medicare, aging adults, financial toxicity, palliative and end-of-life care

#### **HONORS & AWARDS**

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

#### **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 Programs (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 II, 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  
Teaching Assistant, *Protocol Development I* (MPH)

**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**Refereed Articles:

1. **Besaw RJ**, Fry CE. State drug caps associated with fewer Medicaid prescriptions for opioid use disorder, 2017-2022. *Under Review*.
2. 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.
  - a. Press: [Time](#), [NBC News](#), [Medical Economics](#)
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
  - a. Press: [MedPage Today](#)
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Ruiz ES, Morgan FC, Zigler CM, **Besaw RJ**, Schmults CD. Analysis of national skin cancer expenditures in the United States Medicare population, 2013. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. 2019;80(1):275-278.

14. Ruiz ES, Karia PS, **Besaw R**, Schmults CD. Performance of the American Joint Committee on Cancer Staging Manual, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition vs the Brigham and Women's Hospital Tumor Classification System for cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. *JAMA Dermatology*. 2019;155(7):819-825.
  - a. Press: [MedPage Today](#), [Oncology Nurse Advisor](#)
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. Wang DM, Kraft S, Rohani P, Murphy GF, **Besaw RJ**, Karia PS, Morgan FC, Schmults CD. Association of nodal metastasis and mortality with vermilion vs cutaneous lip location in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the lip. *JAMA Dermatology*. 2018;154(6):701-707.
20. 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.

#### Perspectives & Editorials

1. Lewis A, Markell J, **Besaw RJ**. Preserving Access to CMS Data for Early-Career Researchers. *JAMA Health Forum*. 2024;5(5):e241281.
2. **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**, 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.
2. **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.

#### Non-Peer-Reviewed Articles

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*. 2024 Jul 19:2023.03.13.23287216. 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.

#### Works in Progress

1. **Besaw RJ**, Fry CE, Gupta A, Wiese AD, Dusetzina SB. Medicare Part D plan formulary coverage of prophylactic antiemetics for chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, 2012-2023.

2. Liang A, Vaidya A, **Besaw RJ**, Gupta A, Dusetzina SB, Jazowski SA. Inequities in supportive care medication use among older adults with metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma.

#### Posters & Presentations

1. Liang A, Vaidya A, **Besaw RJ**, Gupta A, Dusetzina SB, Jazowski SA. Inequities in the Use of Supportive Care Medications Among Older Adults with Metastatic Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma. Presentation at ASCO Quality Care Symposium, San Francisco, CA (September 2024).
2. Liang A, Vaidya A, **Besaw RJ**, Gupta A, Dusetzina SB, Jazowski SA. Inequities in the Use of Supportive Care Medications Among Older Adults with Metastatic Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma. Poster at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center Scientific Retreat, Nashville, TN (May 2024). *First Place Poster in the Population Health Category.*
3. **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).
4. **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).
5. 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).
6. 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).
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. 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).
9. 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)
10. Wang DM, Kraft S, Rohani P, Murphy GF, **Besaw RJ**, Karia PS, Morgan FC, Schmults CD. Association of nodal metastasis with vermilion lip location in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma of the lip. Poster at International Investigative Dermatology, Orlando, FL (May 2018).
11. 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).
12. 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).
13. 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).

## **PROFESSIONAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS**

### Professional & University Service:

2022- Abstract Reviewer, AcademyHealth Annual Research Meetings  
2022- Co-founder & President (former VP), Vanderbilt University AcademyHealth Student Chapter  
2022- Abstract Reviewer, Vanderbilt MPH Population and Public Health Practicum Colloquium  
2017-2021 New England Region Admissions 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:

- *Annals of Internal Medicine*
- *JAMA Network Open*
- *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network*
- *JNCI Cancer Spectrum*
- *Journal of Patient Experience*

### Memberships:

- AcademyHealth, 2022-
- American Society of Clinical Oncology, 2022-
- Tennessee Public Health Association, 2023-2024