

# XXIII RIDGE FORUM

2026 RIDGE MAY FORUM

LACEA'S HEALTH ECONOMICS NETWORK

9th Annual Workshop

## PROGRAM

### Scientific Committee

Antonella Bancalari, Institute for Fiscal Studies

Damian Clarke, University of Exeter and Universidad de Chile

Pablo Celhay, Universidad Católica de Chile

Fabian Duarte, Universidad de Chile

Guillermo Paraje, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

Mayra Pineda Torres, Georgia Institute of Technology

Rudi Rocha, FGV EAESP

Nieves Valdés, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

Mariana Zerpa, Universidad de Chile

### Organizing Committee

Ana Balsa, Universidad de Montevideo

Dolores de la Mata, CAF

May 20-21, 2026

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Day 1: May 20

Room: TBC

**NOTICE: All times are in Barbados Time (UTC-4)**

Presenters will have 35 minutes for their presentation, discussants 5 minutes, and there will be an additional 5 minutes for Q&A.

09:50-10:00      Opening Remarks

10:00-11:30      ► SESSION 1: ADOLESCENT'S MENTAL HEALTH, SKILLS AND SCHOOLING

The Impacts of Terrorist Attacks on Teenagers' Socioemotional Skills and Risky Health Behaviors

**Presenter: Nicolás Fuertes-Segura, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA**

**Discussant: Sonia Bhalotra, University of Warwick, UK**

Schooling and the Production of Mental Health

**Presenter: Ana Balsa, University of Montevideo, Uruguay**

**Discussant: Priya Mukherjee, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA**

11:30-12:00      Coffee break

12:00-13:30      ► SESSION 2: MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

Maternal Depression, Bargaining Power and Intimate Partner Violence: Long-Term Evidence from a Psychotherapy Trial

**Presenter: Sonia Bhalotra, University of Warwick, UK**

**Discussant: Raissa Fabregas, The University of Texas at Austin, USA**

Talk Therapy in Adolescence: Experimental Evidence on Take-Up, Mental Health, and Schooling

**Presenter: Priya Mukherjee, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA**

**Discussant: Mariana Gerstenblüth, University of the Republic, Uruguay**

13:30-14:30      Lunch break

14:30-16:00      ► SESSION 3: MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT / THE ROLE OF COGNITIVE PROCESSES IN HEALTH POLICY DESIGN

The Well-Being Effects of Digital Mental Health Care

**Presenter: Raissa Fabregas, The University of Texas at Austin, USA**

**Discussant: Ana Balsa, University of Montevideo, Uruguay**

Attention as a Health Policy Tool: Experimental Evidence from Cigarette Warning Labels

**Presenter: Mariana Gerstenblüth, University of the Republic, Uruguay**

**Discussant: Nicolás Fuertes-Segura, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA**

16:00-16:40 Coffee break

16:40-18:10

▶ KEYNOTE LECTURE (Joint with IEN and NIP)

MENTAL HEALTH, POVERTY, AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR

● Manuela Angelucci, University of Texas at Austin

19:00-21:00

Conference dinner

## Day 2: May 21

Room: TBC

10:30-11:30

▶ SESSION 4: LONG RUN EFFECTS OF HEALTH INSURANCE: COVERAGE AND COST-SHARING

Tracing the Genetic Footprints of the UK National Health Service

**Presenter:** Elisabetta De Cao, University of Bologna, Italy

**Discussant:** Demian de Walque, The World Bank, Development Economics Research Group, USA

Time Horizons and the Dynamic Effects of Patient Cost-Sharing in Medical Care: The Case of Colombia

**Presenter:** Giancarlo Buitrago, Universidad Nacional de Colombia; Fundación Cardioinfantil-Instituto de Cardiología, Colombia

**Discussant:** Krzysztof Zaremba, ITAM, Mexico

11:30-12:00

Coffee break

12:00-13:30

▶ SESSION 5: PRIMARY CARE

Crowding-Out Effects of a Universal Primary Care Policy: Evidence from Brazil

**Presenter:** Sergio Firpo, Insper, Brazil

**Discussant:** Erken Aslim, University of Vermont, USA

Beyond Opening Doors: How Extended Primary Care Hours Affect Access, Efficiency, and Secondary Care Utilization

**Presenter:** Lucas Falcão, IEPS, Brazil

**Discussant:** Ljubica Ristovska, Ljubica Ristovska

13:30-14:30

Lunch break

**14:30-16:00** ▶ **SESSION 6: CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

Medium-Term Impacts of Integrated Social Safety Nets: Cash Transfers, Information Meetings, and Home Visits for Child Development

**Presenter:** Demian de Walque, The World Bank, Development Economics Research Group, USA

**Discussant:** Lucas Falcão, IEPS, Brazil

Effects of Lead Exposure Across Generations

**Presenter:** Krzysztof Zaremba, ITAM, Mexico

**Discussant:** Elisabetta De Cao, University of Bologna, Italy

**16:00-16:30** Closing Remarks**16:30-16:30** ▶ **SESSION 7: ABORTION / NURSING HOME QUALITY**

Abortion, Economic Hardship, and Crime

**Presenter:** Erkmen Aslim, University of Vermont, USA

**Discussant:** Giancarlo Buitrago, Universidad Nacional de Colombia; Fundación Cardioinfantil-Instituto de Cardiología, Colombia

The Effects of Nursing Home Staffing on the Quality of Nursing Home Care: Evidence from Employee Absences

**Presenter:** Ljubica Ristovska, University of Texas at Austin, USA

**Discussant:** Sergio Firpo, Insper, Brazil