



XXIII RIDGE FORUM

2026 RIDGE MAY FORUM

LACEA'S HEALTH ECONOMICS NETWORK

9th Annual Workshop

PROGRAM

Scientific Committee

Antonella Bancalari, Institute for Fiscal Studies

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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

Building Clico Centre for Teaching Excellence, Room LR8

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

16:00-16:20 Coffee break

16:20-17:50

▶ 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

Building Clico Centre for Teaching Excellence, Room LR8

10:00-11:30

▶ 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: Erkmen 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 **Coffee break**

16:30-18:00 ▶ **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

18:00-18:05 **Closing Remarks**