



Research Topic for Summer Internship 2016

3. Health Expenditure Survey

Prices of pharmaceutical products have dramatically increased in the past few years that become an important focus of public debate in Georgia. Universal health coverage program offers free or subsidized outpatient and inpatient services to the population, however drugs for outpatients are not included in the benefit package that create a financial burden to chronic patients. The National Statistics office of Georgia carries out the quarterly Household Expenditure Survey among a representative sample of the population that includes health expenditure module allowing pharmaceutical products expenditure trend analyses.

CIF considers following research question to be answered by this analysis:

- How and to what extent the prices paid by population for pharmaceutical products have changed between 2010-2015?

Interns interested in the issues of health policy with good literature review, paper writing and policy analysis skills and/or good statistical skills will strongly benefit from participating in this internship. **Interns will be expected** to contribute to any of the following activities, depending on their interest:

- a. **Literature review**
- b. **Quantitative statistical data analysis.**
- c. **Paper development**

Interns are expected to have one or several **following capabilities/experience**:

- **Literature review skills/experience.** Ability to undertake a comprehensive, systematic search, critical evaluation of publications, thorough analytical and summative literature review skills, covering methodological issues and topic related, ability to develop a clear and coherent structure with accurate citations.
- **Quantitative analytical skills/experience.** Theoretical and practical skills in regression analyses are required.
- **Scientific paper writing skills/experience**

The interns are expected to primarily contribute to the scientific paper development, which will be submitted to international peer reviewed journal for publication. Interns will be named as co-authors on these papers when prepared and depending on the quality of their output.

Applicants interested in this research topic, however, not having proficiency in the skills, **are strongly encouraged** to upgrade their theoretical knowledge and practical skills prior to the internship term by enrolling in respective courses in their schools. Applicants will be expected to adequately reflect this weakness in their application/motivation letter and describe how they intend to advance their knowledge and skills prior to undertaking internship. Failure to do so will have a negative impact on internship evaluation, if accepted in our program.