Final Program
Society of Government Economists Annual Conference
April 5, 2019

8:00am-4:30pm

Janet Norwood Conference and Training Center
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212

Scan this QR to see the program online
Map of Janet Norwood Conference Center, Ground Floor, U.S. Bureau of Labor

Contents
Conference and Conference Center Information .................................................................................................................. 3
8:00am Onward Registration ............................................................................................................................................. 4
8:40am-8:55am Presidential Address and SGE Election Results .................................................................................. 4
9:00am-10:30am Session 1: 4-person panel .......................................................................................................................... 4
  Panel 1A. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Impacts, Expenditures, and Misreporting (Rm 1) ............ 4
  Panel 1B. Wages, Employment, and Business Cycles (Rm 3) .................................................................................. 4
  Panel 1C. Supplemental Poverty Measure: Roundtable Discussion on Future Directions (Rm 7) ....................... 5
  Panel 1D. Patients, Payments, and Providers - A Window on Health Research (Rm 8) ....................................... 5
10:40am-11:50am Session 2: 3-person panel .................................................................................................................... 6
  Panel 2A. Improvements to the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement and Implications for Estimates of Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage (Rm 1) ........................................ 6
  Panel 2B. Topics in the News (Rm 3) ......................................................................................................................... 6
  Panel 2C. The Digital Age, Big Cities, and Big Companies (Rm 7) ........................................................................... 6
  Panel 2D. Addressing Subnational Fiscal Risks in the United States (Rm 8) ............................................................. 7
11:50am-12:40pm Lunch .................................................................................................................................................. 7
12:00-12:40 pm Career Roundtable for New & Young Professionals (Rm 9) ................................................................. 7
12:40pm-1:30pm KEYNOTE ADDRESS .......................................................................................................................... 8
Keeping Official Statistics Relevant for Policy
Introduction: Mr. William Wiatrowski
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Brian Moyer
1:40pm-2:50pm Session 3: 3-person panel ..................................................................................................................... 8
  Panel 3A. Inequality and Living Standards (Rm 1) ....................................................................................................... 8
  Panel 3B. Cell Phones and Services – Price Measurement Topics (Rm 3) ................................................................. 8
  Panel 3C. Economic Growth and Government Spending (Rm 7) ............................................................................ 9
  Panel 3D. Agriculture and Natural Resources (Rm 8) ............................................................................................... 9
3:00pm-4:30pm Session 4: 4-person panel .......................................................................................................................... 10
  Panel 4A. What We Eat and Buy and How It's Measured (Rm 1) ............................................................................. 10
  Panel 4B. Recent Disability Policy Research (Rm 3) .................................................................................................. 10
  Panel 4C. Education Matters (Rm 7) ....................................................................................................................... 10
  Panel 4D. International Trade and Finance Topics (Rm 8) ....................................................................................... 11
The Society of Government Economists welcomes **Dr. Brian Moyer** as the Keynote Speaker of the annual conference. Dr. Moyer is the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, whose official economic statistics provide a comprehensive, up-to-date picture of the U.S. economy that aids in decision making by businesses, policymakers and households. His research focus has been on measuring the performance of the U.S. economy and improving industry-related statistics. His keynote address is titled “Keeping Official Statistics Relevant for Policy”.

Janet Norwood Conference Center, Ground Floor  
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
2 Massachusetts Ave, NE  
Washington, DC  
20212

Visitors to BLS must enter on 1st St., NE, across from the Union Station (Red Line) Metro street entrance. Visitors check in with the security desk and are required to show a government-issued photo ID (i.e., driver’s license, passport). All visitors must pass through a metal detector. Proceed to the elevator bank and take the elevator down to the Ground Floor. The Janet Norwood Conference Center is around the corner and through the glass doors. **NO FOOD IS ALLOWED IN MEETING ROOMS. ONLY BEVERAGES WITH CLOSED TOPS ARE PERMITTED IN MEETING ROOMS.** 

Please check in to receive your conference name tag. Pre-registration assures that you will be able to enter the building without delay. Go to [http://www.sge-econ.org/](http://www.sge-econ.org/). Conference-day registration will require extensive security screening – please schedule arrival time accordingly. Conference-day registration will cost an additional $20. Checks and credit cards accepted.

See pages 12-14 for Alphabetical Participants List with Panel and Room assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Session Room Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am-8:30am</td>
<td>Registration begins at 8am</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40am-8:55am</td>
<td>Presidential Address and SGE Election Results</td>
<td>Rm 1 Rm 2 Rm 3 Rm 7 Rm 8 Rm 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am-10:30am</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:40am-11:50am</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:50am-12:40pm</td>
<td>Lunch, served in Large Pantry</td>
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<td>12-12:40pm</td>
<td>Career roundtable</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:40pm-1:30pm</td>
<td>Keynote speaker – Dr. Brian Moyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:40pm-2:50pm</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm-4:30pm</td>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8:40am-8:55am    Presidential Address and SGE Election Results

9:00am-10:30am   Session 1:    4-person panel

Panel 1A. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Impacts, Expenditures, and Misreporting (Rm 1)
Chair: Cristina Miller, USDA Economic Research Service
Discussant: Jessica Todd, USDA Economic Research Service

Great Recession SNAP Stimulus Impacts on the Rural Economy
Stephen Vogel, USDA Economic Research Service
Co-authors: Cristina Miller, USDA Economic Research Service, Katherine Ralston, USDA Economic Research Service

The Real Value of SNAP Benefits and Its Impact on Food Expenditure and Food Security of SNAP Participants
Xinzhe Cheng, USDA Economic Research Service
Co-author: Young Jo, USDA Economic Research Service

The Implications of Misreporting For Longitudinal Studies of SNAP
Erik Scherpf, USDA Economic Research Service
Co-author: Brian Stacy, USDA Economic Research Service

Differences in Food-At-Home Spending For Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Non-SNAP Households in Low- And High-Price Areas
Mehreen S. Ismail, Tufts University
Co-author: Shelly Ver Ploeg, USDA Economic Research Service

Panel 1B. Wages, Employment, and Business Cycles (Rm 3)
Chair: Cliff Waldman, National Economists Club
Discussant: Julia Manzella, U.S. Census Bureau

Cross-Country Comparison of Business Cycles - Through the Lens Of Okun's Law
Constantin Burgi, St. Mary’s College of Maryland
Co-author: Eiji Goto, George Washington University

Bryan Stuart, George Washington University
Co-authors: Martha Bailey, University of Michigan, John DiNardo, University of Michigan

Childcare and Maternal Employment: Evidence from Vietnam
Hai-Anh Dang, World Bank
Corporate Taxes and The Wage Distribution: Evidence From The Domestic Production Activities Deduction
Christine Dobridge, Federal Reserve Board of Governors
Co-authors: Paul Landefeld, Joint Committee on Taxation, Jake Mortenson, Joint Committee on Taxation

Panel 1C. Supplemental Poverty Measure: Roundtable Discussion on Future Directions (Rm 7)
Chair: Trudi Renwick, U.S. Census Bureau
In 2011, the Census Bureau released the first annual Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) report. Since this first publication, no major changes have been made to the SPM, but research has been ongoing at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Census Bureau on potential improvements and validation of prior assumptions. The Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG) has set 2021 as a target for making methodological improvements to the measure. This session will provide an opportunity for an open discussion of possible changes to the measure.

Roundtable Discussants:
Liana Fox, U.S. Census Bureau
Trudi Renwick, U.S. Census Bureau
Shelly Ver Ploeg, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
David S. Johnson, University of Michigan

Panel 1D. Patients, Payments, and Providers - A Window on Health Research (Rm 8)
Chair: Nicole Nestoriak, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Discussant: Elizabeth Bass, Congressional Budget Office

Comparison of Medicare and Private Health Insurance Payments to Hospitals
Bridget Dickensheets, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary

Pathways to Disability and Mortality in Mid-Ages: Estimates from the Health and Retirement Study Data
Lakshmi Raut, Social Security Administration

Effect of Virtualization on the Patient Diagnosis Process
Byrian Ramsey, University of Phoenix

Why Foreign Born Caregivers Earn More: Selective Attributes Or Geographic Concentration?
Lindsay Lowell, Georgetown University
10:40am-11:50am Session 2: 3-person panel

Panel 2A. Improvements to the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement and Implications for Estimates of Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage (Rm 1)
Chair: Sharon Stern, U.S. Census Bureau
Discussant: Anthony D'Amico, Independent Consultant

Processing Changes to the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement
Jonathan Rothbaum, U.S. Census Bureau

Updating the Current Population Survey Processing System and Bridging Differences in the Measurement of Poverty
Ashley Edwards, U.S. Census Bureau
Co-author: John Creamer, U.S. Census Bureau

Health Insurance in the United States: Evaluating the Effects of Changes in The CPS ASEC
Heide Jackson, U.S. Census Bureau
Co-author: Edward Berchick, U.S. Census Bureau

Panel 2B. Topics in the News (Rm 3)
Chair: Natalia Radchenko, American University
Discussant: Gray Kimbrough, Federal Housing Finance Agency

Estimating the Potential Effects of Adding a Citizenship Question on the 2020 Census
J. David Brown, U.S. Census Bureau
Co-authors: Misty L. Heggeness, U.S. Census Bureau, Suzanne M. Dorinski, U.S. Census Bureau, Lawrence Warren, U.S. Census Bureau, Moises Yi, U.S. Census Bureau

The Effect of Basic Housing Allowance Changes on Privatized Family Housing
Glenn H. Ackerman, CNA
Co-author: S. Alexander Yellin, CNA

Pecuniary Versus Non-Pecuniary Motives for Migration
Ben Klemens, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Panel 2C. The Digital Age, Big Cities, and Big Companies (Rm 7)
Chair: Brian Sloboda, University of Phoenix
Discussant: Sudip Bhattacharjee, University of Connecticut and U.S. Census Bureau
Probabilistic Analysis of Traffic Flow in Transportation Systems: Case Study of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area
Chandra Putcha, Cal State Fullerton

Startup Fever: Vancouver, British Columbia Becomes Hot Spot For Entrepreneurs!
Norris Krueger, University of Phoenix
Co-author: Brian Sloboda, University of Phoenix

Dignity and Utility of Privacy and Information Sharing in the Digital Big Data Age
Julia M. Puaschunder, New School of Social Research

Panel 2D. Addressing Subnational Fiscal Risks in the United States (Rm 8)
Chair: Daniel Muhammad, DC Office of Revenue Analysis
Discussant: Evan Kraft, American University

Recent Challenges in Subnational Financial Distress: Is the Process Optimal from a Public Policy Perspective
Rafael Romeu, DevTech Systems
Co-author: Emily Forrest, DevTech Systems

Political Pension Contribution Cycles: Evidence from US States
Welmar Rosado, DevTech Systems
Co-author: Reyes Ruiz-Gonzalez

Fiscal Management Boards: Historical Experiences from the United States
Adam Chepenik, Ernst & Young

11:50am-12:40pm Lunch
Boxed lunch is served in Large Pantry. Tables will be set up in Lobby/Reception Area.

12:00-12:40 pm Career Roundtable for New & Young Professionals (Rm 9)
Careers for Economists in DC: What They Do and How They Got There
Chair: Gray Kimbrough, Federal Housing Finance Agency
Jevay Grooms, Howard University
Karen Hamrick, National Science Foundation
LaRhonda Ealey, Federal Housing Finance Agency
12:40pm-1:30pm  KE YNOTE ADDRESS

Keeping Official Statistics Relevant for Policy

Introduction: Mr. William Wiatrowski
Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Brian Moyer
Director, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

1:40pm-2:50pm  Session 3:  3-person panel

Panel 3A. Inequality and Living Standards (Rm 1)
Chair: Daniel Kuehn, Urban Institute
Discussant: Austin Nichols, Abt Associates

Income Inequality in the United States: Using Tax Data to Measure Long-Term Trends
David Splinter, Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Congress
Co-author: Gerald Auten, U.S. Department of the Treasury

The Use and Misuse of Income Data and Extreme Poverty in the United States
Bruce Meyer, University of Chicago
Co-authors: Carla Medalia, U.S. Census Bureau, Victoria Mooers, University of Chicago, Derek Wu, University of Chicago

Are Median Incomes Actually Stagnating? How We Calculate Housing Costs Affects the Answer
Robert Lerman, Urban Institute
Co-author: Breno Braga, Urban Institute

Panel 3B. Cell Phones and Services – Price Measurement Topics (Rm 3)
Chair: David Friedman, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Discussant: Barry Bosworth, Brookings Institution

Challenges in Measuring Communications Prices: Wireless Communications
Dee Bathgate, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Getting Smart about Phones: New Price Indexes and the Allocation of Spending Between Devices and Services Plans in Personal Consumption Expenditures
  David Byrne, Federal Reserve Board of Governors
  Co-authors: Ana Aizcorbe, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Daniel E. Sichel, Wellesley College

The Depreciation of Apple iPhones (A First Look)
  Brian Sliker, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Panel 3C. Economic Growth and Government Spending (Rm 7)
  Chair: Stephen Vogel, USDA Economic Research Service
  Discussant: Erick Sager, Federal Reserve Board

Business Dynamics in the National Establishment Time Series (NETS)
  Leland Crane, Federal Reserve Board of Governors
  Co-author: Ryan A. Decker, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

Including Illegal Activity in the U.S. National Accounts
  Rachel Soloveichik, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Evaluation of Government Budget Forecasts
  Neil R. Ericsson, Federal Reserve Board of Governors
  Co-author: Andrew Martinez, University of Oxford

Panel 3D. Agriculture and Natural Resources (Rm 8)
  Chair: Karen Thome, USDA Economic Research Service
  Discussant: James Williamson, USDA Economic Research Service

More Oil, More or Less Taxes? New Evidence on the Impact of Resource Revenue on Domestic Revenue Efforts
  Loujaina Abdelwahed, University of Illinois at Chicago

Before Implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act’s Produce Rule: A Survey of U.S. Produce Growers
  Gregory Astill, USDA Economic Research Service
  Co-authors: Travis Minor, Suzanne Thornsbury (USDA Economic Research Service)

Low, High and Super Congestion of Open-Access Commons: A Vastly Greater Tragedy
  Maurice Schiff, Institute of Labor Economics
3:00pm-4:30pm  Session 4:  4-person panel

Panel 4A. What We Eat and Buy and How It's Measured (Rm 1)
Chair and Discussant:  Adam Safir, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Experimental Sub-State Estimates of Personal Consumption Expenditures
Mahsa Gholizadeh, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Capturing the Complete Food Environment with Commercial Data: A Comparison Of TDLinx, Recount, And NETS Databases
Clare Cho, USDA Economic Research Service
Co-authors: Patrick McLaughlin, Eliana Zeballos, Chris Dicken, and Jessica Kent (USDA ERS)

Twenty Years of Food Expenditures from the Consumer Expenditure Surveys

Retrospective of the CE-PCE Comparisons and a Look to the Future
Taylor J. Wilson, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Panel 4B. Recent Disability Policy Research (Rm 3)
Chair:  Austin Nichols, Abt Associates
Discussant:  Breno Braga, Urban Institute

Removing the Disability Insurance Cash Cliff: Experimental Evidence from SSA’s Benefit Offset National Demonstration (BOND)
Daniel Gubits, Abt Associates
Co-authors: David Stapleton, Stephen Bell, Michelle Wood, Denise Hoffman, Sarah Croake, David R. Mann, Judy Geyer, David Greenberg (Abt Associates)

The Prevalence of Disabilities in the U.S. Farm Population
Cristina Miller, USDA Economic Research Service
Co-author: Robert Aherin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

How Do Work-Related Overpayments Affect the Earnings of Social Security Disability Insurance Beneficiaries?
Denise Hoffman, Mathematica Policy Research
Co-authors: Priyanka Anand, John T. Jones (Mathematica Policy Research)

Early Intervention Models for Workers with Disabilities
Austin Nichols, Abt Associates

Panel 4C. Education Matters (Rm 7)
Chair:  Takashi Yamashita, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Discussants:  Jeffrey Groen, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Bryan Stuart, George Washington University
Occupational Sorting in Youth Career Expectation and College Major Choices
Agnieszka Postepska, University of Groningen

Firm Relocation and Public School Quality: Can Rural Schools Help Attract Firms?
Alexander Marre, USDA Economic Research Service
Co-author: Anil Rupasingha, USDA Economic Research Service

Multidimensional Skills and the Returns to Schooling: Evidence from an Interactive Fixed Effects Approach and a Linked Survey-Administrative Dataset
Evan Totty, U.S. Census Bureau
Co-authors: Xiaoxiao Li, Villanova University, Mohitosh Kejriwal, Purdue University

Knowledge Capital and State-level Differences in Labor Productivity

Panel 4D. International Trade and Finance Topics (Rm 8)
Chair: Wendy Li, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Discussants: David Schimmelpfennig, USDA Economic Research Service
Philip Ostromogolsky, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

FDI Return Differentials: An Explanation Based on Offshore Profit Shifting
Jennifer Bruner, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
Co-authors: Dylan Rassier, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Fatih Guvenen, University of Minnesota, and Kim J. Ruhl, University of Wisconsin

Globalization and Inequality in Innovation: A Perspective from U.S. R&D Tax Credit Policy
Maksim Belenkiy, U.S. International Trade Administration
Co-authors: Wendy Li, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Susan Xu, U.S. International Trade Administration

Central Bank’s Capital Controls and International Capital Flows: Do Controls Reduce the Size Of Flows?
Gao Chen, George Washington University

Join us for a happy hour social after the conference.
Location: Thunder Grill Restaurant,
Ground floor bar area
4:45pm-6:00pm
Street Level - Eastside Main Hall, Union Station
Happy Hour specials run 5-7pm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Panel</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdelwahed, Loujaina</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ackerman, Glenn</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astill, Gregory</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Elizabeth</td>
<td>1D</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bathgate, Dee</td>
<td>3B</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belenkiy, Maksim</td>
<td>4D</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhattacharjee, Sudip</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3B</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>4B</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Dobridge, Christine</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>3, 9</td>
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<td>Miller, Cristina</td>
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Call for Papers
2020 ASSA/SGE Sessions
San Diego, CA
January 3-5, 2020
PAPER and SESSION SUBMISSION: April 16-May 16, 2019

The Society of Government Economists’ mission is to support the professional development of government economists, and those who are interested in public policy economics, by providing them with research, publication, and professional communication opportunities. SGE has seven sessions in the 2020 ASSA meeting. These sessions will provide economists the opportunity to present their research, discuss it with their peers, and receive feedback as well as to meet other economists and be informed about the latest topics in economics. This call for papers and sessions is open to all individuals (applicants need not be government economists).

Sessions will be designed to provide valuable contributions to existing knowledge and understanding, and to improve how economics is practiced. They should better enable economists to observe and understand the nature and causes of economic factors, which will, in turn, enhance their ability to contribute to public decision making.

In the case of proposed papers, the Society will organize selected papers into sessions and invite discussants and chairs to those sessions.

All participants are required to register and pay for the conference that they attend. In addition, for each submission, at least one author of each paper must have an active SGE membership. The submission will not be processed if this requirement is not met. The annual membership fee of $30 can be purchased using PayPal at http://www.sge-econ.org/join-sge/.

To propose an individual paper here, include: (1) a brief sentence describing the paper, (2) the title of the paper and the names and contact information (including email addresses) and affiliations for each of the authors, (3) a brief abstract (of no more than 300 words) describing the paper, and (4) 2 JEL codes. Do NOT send a draft of the paper. To propose an entire session here, include: (1) The title, organizer, and chair of the session, (2) all of the above-mentioned information required of individual-paper proposals for each of the papers in the session (for 4 papers), and (3) the names and contact information for all discussants and which papers they will discuss.

The due date for submission is May 16th, 2019. Please direct all questions or concerns to Wendy Li, wendycyli@gmail.com.