

Kerra Mercon

University of Maryland
School of Public Health
4200 Valley Drive, Suite 2242
College Park, Maryland 20742

484-832-2538
kmercon@umd.edu

EDUCATION

2023-- PhD., Maternal and Child Health, University of Maryland (in progress)
2019 M.S., Biomedical Engineering, George Washington University, Washington, DC
2017 B.S., Mechanical Engineering, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

AREAS OF INTEREST

Severe Maternal Morbidity	Maternal Mortality
Maternity Care Deserts	Sexual and Reproductive Health
Midwifery Care	Birth Trauma

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2025 PAA Psychosocial Workshop Student Attendance Scholarship
2025 Roger H. Rubin Student Professional Award
2023-27 Flagship Fellowship, University of Maryland (\$60,000 over 4 years)
2017 Mechanical Engineering Department Leadership Award
2014 Summer Research Award, Bucknell University
2013-17 Dean's Tuition Merit Scholarship, Bucknell University (\$40,000 over 4 years)

PUBLICATIONS

1. Steenland M.W., **Mercon K**, Brown B.P., & Thoma M.E. (2026). Pregnancy- and Abortion-Related Mortality in the US, 2018-2021. *JAMA Network Open*, 9(1), e2554793. <https://doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.54793>
2. Rose, A. M., **Mercon, K. R.**, Gebremariam, A., Pike, J., & Prosser, L. A. (2025). Out-of-pocket costs, time burden, and caregiver quality of life associated with pediatric medically attended respiratory syncytial virus illnesses. *Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation : C/E*, 23(1), 42. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12962-025-00646-4>
3. Prosser, L. A., Wallace, M., Rose, A. M., **Mercon, K.**, Janusz, C. B., Gebremariam, A., Hutton, D. W., Leidner, A. J., Zhou, F., Ortega-Sanchez, I. R., Moulia, D., Link-Gelles, R., Saydah, S., Shah, M., & Pike, J. (2025). Cost-Effectiveness of 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccination in US Adults. *JAMA Network Open*, 8(8), e2523688. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.23688>
4. **Mercon, K. R.**, Rose, A. M., Cadham, C. J., Gebremariam, A., Pike, J., Wittenberg, E., & Prosser, L. A. (2025). Health Preferences in Transition: Differences from Pandemic to Post-Pandemic in Valuation of COVID-19 and RSV Illness in Children and Adults. *Children*, 12(2), 181. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children12020181>

5. Prosser, L. A., Perroud, J., Chung, G. S., Gebremariam, A., Janusz, C. B., **Mercon, K.**, Rose, A. M., Avanceña, A. L. V., Kim DeLuca, E., & Hutton, D. W. (2025). The cost-effectiveness of vaccination against COVID-19 illness during the initial year of vaccination. *Vaccine*, 43, 126725. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2025.126725>
6. Hutton DW, Prosser LA, Rose AM, **Mercon K**, et al. Cost-Effectiveness of Maternal Vaccination to Prevent Respiratory Syncytial Virus Illness. (2024). *Pediatrics*, 154 (6): e2024066481. 10.1542/peds.2024-066481
7. Hutton DW, Prosser LA, Rose AM, **Mercon K**, et al. (2024). Cost-Effectiveness of Nirsevimab for Respiratory Syncytial Virus in Infants and Young Children. *Pediatrics*, 154 (6): e2024066461. 10.1542/peds.2024-066461
8. Hutton DW, Prosser LA, Rose AM, **Mercon K**, et al. Cost-effectiveness of vaccinating adults aged 60 years and older against respiratory syncytial virus (2024). *Vaccine*, 42(24). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2024.126294>
9. Zusterzeel R, Goldstein BA, Evans BJ, Roades T, **Mercon K**, and Silcox C. (2022). Evaluating AI-Enabled Clinical Decision and Diagnostic Support Tools Using Real-World Data. *Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy*. <https://healthpolicy.duke.edu/sites/default/files/2022-03/Evaluating%20AI-Enabled%20Clinical%20Decision%20Diagnostic%20Support%20Tools%20Using%20Real-World%20Data.pdf>
10. Mahendraratnam, N., **Mercon, K.**, Gill, M., Benzing, L. and McClellan, M.B. (2022), Understanding Use of Real-World Data and Real-World Evidence to Support Regulatory Decisions on Medical Product Effectiveness. *Clin. Pharmacol. Ther.*, 111, 150-154. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cpt.2272>
11. **Mercon K**, Mahendraratnam N, Eckert J, et al. (2020). A Roadmap for Developing Study Endpoints in Real-World Settings. *Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy*. <https://healthpolicy.duke.edu/sites/default/files/2020-08/Real-World%20Endpoints.pdf>
12. **Mercon K**, Eckert JC, Mahendraratnam N, Kroetsch AF, Wosińska M, McClellan M. (2020). RW3 Understanding Use Of Real-World Data (RWD) And Real-World Evidence (RWE) To Support Effectiveness Labeling Changes. *Value In Health*, 23, S384. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jval.2020.04.1493>
13. Mahendraratnam N, **Mercon K**, Eckert J, et al. (2019). Adding Real-World Evidence to a Totality of Evidence Approach for Evaluating Marketed Product Effectiveness. *Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy*. <https://healthpolicy.duke.edu/sites/default/files/2020-08/Totality%20of%20Evidence%20Approach.pdf>
14. Mahendraratnam N, Eckert J, **Mercon K**, et al. (2019). Understanding the Need for Non-Interventional Studies Using Secondary Data to Generate Real-World Evidence for Regulatory Decision Making, and Demonstrating Their Credibility. *Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy*. <https://healthpolicy.duke.edu/sites/default/files/2020-08/Non-Interventional%20Study%20Credibility.pdf>
15. Mahendraratnam N, Silcox C, **Mercon K**, et al. (2019). Determining Real-World Data's Fitness for Use and the Role of Reliability. *Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy*. https://healthpolicy.duke.edu/sites/default/files/2019-11/rwd_reliability.pdf

PRESENTATIONS

1. Examining the effect of PND on maternal health outcomes: The role of birth attendant type. APHA 2025 Annual Meeting, November 2025, Washington, DC, Virtual.
2. How Much Time Would Parents Give Up to Prevent COVID-19 Illness in Children? PAS, April 2023, Washington, DC (Poster).
3. Using Real-World Data and Evidence to Support Regulatory Decision-Making, hih & DiMe Roundtable Series: Advancing innovation in evidence generation to support broad acceptance of digital health applications, January 2021, Virtual.
4. A Roadmap for Developing Study Endpoints in Real-World Settings, Duke-Margolis Public Webinar: Developing Study Endpoints in Real-World Settings, December 2020, Virtual.
5. Understanding Use Of Real-World Data (RWD) And Real-World Evidence (RWE) To Support Effectiveness Labeling Changes, ISPOR, May 2020, Virtual.
6. Changes in Myocardial Wall Stiffness in a Mouse Model of Persistent Truncus Arteriosus, Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Conference, October 2015, Tampa, Fl (Poster).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025--	<p>Research Assistant, University of Maryland PI: Maria Steenland, SD Duties: conduct a range of research tasks including literature review, data extraction, cleaning, and analysis, requesting state health department data, and developing manuscripts related to severe maternal morbidity and maternal mortality to support two NIH R01 grants.</p>
2023-24	<p>Research Assistant, University of Maryland PI: Amy Morgan, PhD Duties: conducted literature reviews to support development of grounded theory around identity formation following incarceration to support desistance. I also substantively contributed to the primary manuscript.</p>
2021-24	<p>Research Area Specialist Intermediate, Center for Child Health Evaluation and Research, University of Michigan PIs: Lisa Prosser, PhD and David Hutton, PhD Duties: supported economic analyses of public health interventions including conducting literature reviews, extracting decision model inputs, developing quantitative surveys and coding in Qualtrics, managing participant recruitment, and preparing manuscripts</p>
2019-21	<p>Senior Research Assistant, Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy PI: Nirosha Mahendraratnum Lederer, PhD Duties: organized scientific workshops in partnership with FDA to explore federal policy topics of interest, stakeholder management across collaborative group of industry expert, literature review, white paper development on key topics</p>
2018	<p>Laboratory Research Fellow, PATH Supervisor: Roger Peck, MS</p>

- 2017-18 **Research Assistant, Assistive Robotics and Tele-Medicine Laboratory, George Washington University**
 PI: Chung Hyuk Park, PhD
 Duties: conducted market analysis to identify barriers to HIV self-test use across regions in Africa and Asia to inform original designs and 3D printed prototypes of potential alternative tests that may encourage uptake
- 2016-17 **Research Assistant and Engineering Intern, MDA/ALS Center of Hope**
 PI: Terry Heiman-Patterson, MD
 Duties: designed research protocol, conducted dissections and electrical stimulation of sea slug mouth muscle to demonstrate potential for biologically inspired artificial muscles
- 2015 **Summer Research Assistant, Bucknell University**
 PI: Christine Buffinton, PhD
 Duties: performed surgical technique to isolate the left atrium in chicken embryos as an animal model for complex pediatric heart conditions, refined experimental protocol
- 2015 **Research Assistant, Bucknell University**
 PI: Emily Geist, PhD
 Duties: investigated utility of 3D scanner incorporation as supportive technology in hip labral tear surgery, literature review of existing uses of 3D scanners and potential algorithms for anatomical use

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2026 **Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland**
Course: FMSC 330: Health Happens in Families
Instructor: Kevin Roy, PhD
Duties: grading assignments, discussion posts, and exams; supporting undergraduate students; guest lecturing
- Fall 2025 **Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland**
Course: FMSC 310: Maternal and Child Health
Instructor: Shikah Chandarana, PhD
Duties: grading assignments, discussion posts, and exams; supporting undergraduate students; guest lecturing
- Spring 2025 **Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland**
Course: FMSC 310: Maternal and Child Health
Instructor: Sahra Ibrahimi, PhD
Duties: grading assignments, discussion posts, and exams; supporting undergraduate students
- Fall 2024 **Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland**
Course: FMSC 310: Maternal and Child Health
Instructor: Marie Thoma, PhD
Duties: grading assignments, discussion posts, and exams; supporting undergraduate students; supervising four undergraduate teaching

assistants; guest lecturing; assisting with administrative tasks related to setting up the course

Spring 2024 **Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland**

Course: FMSC 265: Teaching Menstrual Health: Dispelling Myths and Misconceptions

Instructor: Elisabeth Maring, PhD

Duties: grading assignments; supporting undergraduate students at UMD and Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, India; supervising one undergraduate teaching assistant

Fall 2023 **Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland**

Course: FMSC 270: Sex, Drugs, and Social Media: Adolescent Health and Development

Instructor: Amy Lewin, Psy.D

Duties: grading assignments, supporting undergraduate students, taking detailed class notes