



Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

2007, 18th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 14th, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The Causes of Wage Differentials between Immigrant and Native Physicians in the United States

Matthew Goergen
Illinois Wesleyan University

Michael Seeborg, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Goergen, Matthew and Seeborg, Faculty Advisor, Michael, "The Causes of Wage Differentials between Immigrant and Native Physicians in the United States" (2007). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 2.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2007/oralpres9/2>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O9.2

**THE CAUSES OF WAGE DIFFERENTIALS BETWEEN IMMIGRANT AND
NATIVE PHYSICIANS IN THE UNITED STATES**

Matthew Goergen and Michael Seeborg*
Economics Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Although the immigration of foreign physicians has increased in recent years, their wages are less than the wages of native-born physicians. Considering the mass influx of foreign physicians into the U.S., it is important to examine what factors are responsible for this wage disparity. Studies of this nature, with the focus particularly on physicians, are in short supply. Previous literature regarding the economic performance of immigrants, as well as the sources of wage differentials between them and natives as a whole, however, is rather abundant. My study expands the previous literature by employing a human capital theoretical framework to shed light on why this wage discrepancy between immigrant and native physicians exists. Using a 5% sample of the 2000 IPUMS data set, a regression is run that explores the effects of country of origin and age at immigration on earnings. The findings of this study indicate that early arrival immigrant physicians, as well as immigrants from regions most similar to the U.S., earn wages comparable to those of the natives due to increased U.S.-specific human capital.