

# Diana Pacheco Barzallo

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Academic positions

- 2021 - Present **Assistant Professor**, Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine, University of Lucerne, Switzerland  
**Group leader**, Health Economics Group, Swiss Paraplegic Research (SPF), Switzerland
- 2021 - 2022 Visiting Professor, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- 2014 - 2022 Lecturer, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- 2015 - 2020 Postdoctoral Fellow, Rehabilitation Services & Care Unit, Swiss Paraplegic Research, Switzerland  
Lecturer, Department of Health Sciences & Medicine, University of Lucerne, Switzerland
- 2013 - 2014 Scientific Collaborator, Institute of Economic Research, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- 2012 - 2013 Visiting Researcher, Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies (CEDLAS), University of La Plata, Argentina
- 2008 - 2013 Research & Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- 2005 - 2006 Research Assistant, Unidad de Indicadores de Coyuntura, PUCE, Ecuador

### Education

- 2008 - 2013 **Ph.D in Economics**, *University of Neuchâtel*, Switzerland  
- Swiss Program for Doctoral Students in Economics, Study Center Gerzensee, Switzerland
- 2006 - 2008 **MSc. in Economics**, *University of Lausanne*, Switzerland  
- Specialization: Econometrics
- 2001 - 2006 **License in Economics**, *Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Ecuador (PUCE)*, Quito, Ecuador

### Board Membership - Institutional Responsibilities

- 2024 - Present Chair of the Scientific Committee of the International Spinal Cord Injury (InSCI)
- 2024 - Present Member of the Sustainability Commission, University of Lucerne
- 2023 - Present Head of Swiss International Spinal Cord Injury (SwiSCI) Interest Group "Health Economics"
- 2023 - Present Co-Chair of the Scientific Board "Health Services Research" of the International Spinal Cord Injury Survey (InSCI)
- 2021 - Present Member of the Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems (CRGHS), University of Lucerne
- 2021 - Present SSPH+ Fellow, Swiss School of Public Health

### Grants & Awards

- 2024 - 2026 *Research Grant*. Velux Stiftung. Project: Using the Learning Health System approach to foster healthy ageing by means of rehabilitation in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: a feasibility study in Armenia. **Role: Co-Principal Investigator**

- 2022 - 2023 *Research Partnership Grant*. Leading House for South East Asia & Iran - State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Project: Catastrophic Health Expenditures Following Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury (SCI). **Role: Principal Investigator.**
- 2022 - 2023 *Research Partnership Grant*. Leading House for the Latin American Region - State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Project: The social response to people living with long-term health conditions. **Role: Principal Investigator.**
- 2019 - 2023 *SSPH+ Ph.D Fellowship Program in Public Health Science*. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (Horizon 2020 - Cofund). Project: Understanding the living situation of people with spinal cord injury through health systems. **Role: Ph.D Supervisor.**
- 2017 - 2018 *Research Grant*. Federal Office of Public Health (BAG). Project: The living situation of family caregivers of persons with spinal cord injury. **Role: Co-Investigator.**
- 2015 - 2019 *Research Grant*. Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). Project: Informal health care by family members of persons with spinal cord injury in Switzerland. **Role: Co-Investigator.**
- 2012 - 2013 *Fellowships for prospective researchers*. Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). Project: The extent of the impact: Identifying externalities. **Role: Principal Investigator.**
- 2007 *José Corsino Cárdenas Research Prize*. Best paper award. Central Bank of Ecuador. Project: Business Cycles and Fiscal Policy

## Publications

- Peer-reviewed journals Metzger, S., Polanco, B., Eriks-Hoogland, I., Scheel-Sailer, A., & **Pacheco Barzallo, D. (2024)**. *Utilization and features of rehabilitation and health services for persons with spinal cord injury*. European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, 26. [doi](#).
- Sabariego, C., Kamenov, K., Barrett, D., Cieza, A., Bickenbach, J., **Pacheco Barzallo, D. (2024)**. *Can we still ensure no one is left behind by 2030? Demonstrating the potential of implementing the WHO Functioning and Disability Disaggregation Tool (FDD11) in existing survey platforms for disaggregating SDG indicators by disability*. Disability and Rehabilitation, 1-13. [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Schnyder, A., Zanini, C., Gemperli, A. (2024). *Gender differences in family caregiver. Do women do more or undertake different tasks?* BMC Health Services Research, 24(1), 730. [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Oña, A., Brach, M., Gemperli, A. (2024). *Healthcare service utilization and related costs. A comparison of the situation of persons with spinal cord injury to the general population*. Forthcoming in American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.
- Polanco, B., Oña, A., Sabariego, C., **Pacheco Barzallo, D. (2024)**. *Chronic health conditions and their impact on the labor market. A cross-country comparison in Europe*. SSM-Population Health, 26, 101666. [doi](#).
- Homaie Rad E., **Pacheco Barzallo, D.** Jouchakinejad L., Sharifnia S., Mohtasham-Amiri Z., Yousefzadeh-Chabok S. et al (2024). *The International Spinal Cord Injury Survey in Iran (InSCI-IR)*. The International Spinal Cord Injury Survey in Iran (InSCI-IR). Iranian Journal of Neurosurgery, 10, 0-01. [doi](#).
- Oña, A., Schwegler, U., Leiulfstrud, A., Kouda, K., Boekel, A., **Pacheco Barzallo, D. (2023)**. *Disability, unemployment, and inequality: A cross-country comparison of the situation of persons with spinal cord injury (SCI)*. International Journal of Social Determinants of Health and Health Services, 27551938241235780. [doi](#).
- Ruoss, M., Brach, M., **Pacheco Barzallo, D. (2023)**. *Labor Market Costs for Long-Term Family Caregivers. The situation of caregivers of persons with spinal cord injury in Switzerland*. BMC Health Services Research, 23(1), 676. [doi](#).

- Sabariego C., Ehrmann C., Bickenbach J., **Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Schedin Leiulfsrud A., Strøm V., Osterthun R., Tederko P., Seijas V., Eriks-Hoogland I., Le Fort M., Gonzalez Viejo MA., Bökel A., Popa D., Dionyssiotis Y., Baricich A., Juocevicius A., Amico P., Stucki G. (2023). *Ageing, functioning patterns and their environmental determinants in the spinal cord injury (SCI) population: A comparative analysis across eleven European countries implementing the International Spinal Cord Injury Community Survey*. Plos one, 18(4), e0284420. [doi](#).
- Oña, A., Athanasios, K., Tederko, P., Escorpizo, R., Arora, M., Sturm, C., Yang, S., & **Pacheco Barzallo, D.** (2023). *Unmet healthcare needs and health inequalities in people with spinal cord injury: a direct regression inequality decomposition*. International Journal for Equity in Health, 22(1), 56. [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Hernandez, R., Brach, M., Gemperli, A. (2022). *The economic value of long-term family caregiving*. Health & Social Care in the Community, 30(5), e2297-e2307. [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Köhn, S., Tobler, S., Délitroz, M., Gemperli, A. (2021). *Measuring patient satisfaction in acute care hospitals: nationwide monitoring in Switzerland*. Zeitschrift für Evidenz, Fortbildung und Qualität im Gesundheitswesen, 165, 27-34. [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Oña, A., Gemperli, A. (2021). *Unmet health care needs and inequality: A cross- country comparison of the situation of people with spinal cord injury*. Health services research, 56, 1429-1440. [doi](#).
- Oña, A., Strøm, V., Lee, B., Le Fort, M., Middleton, J., Gutenbrunner, C., **Pacheco Barzallo, D.** (2021). *Health inequalities and income for people with spinal cord injury. A comparison between and within countries*. SSM-population Health, 15, 100854. [doi](#).
- Huang, J., **Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Rubineli, S., Münzel, N., Brach, M., Gemperli, A. (2020). *Professional home care and the objective care burden for family caregivers of persons with spinal cord injury: a cross-sectional survey*. International Journal of Nursing Studies Advances, 3, 100014. [doi](#).
- Gemperli, A., Rubinelli, R., Zanini, C., Brach, M., Huang, J., **Pacheco Barzallo, D.** (2020). *Living situation of family caregivers of persons with spinal cord injury*. Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine (Stiftelsen Rehabiliteringsinformation), 52(11). [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Gross-Hemmi, M., Bickenbach, J., Juocevičius, A., Popa, D., Karunia Wahyuni, L., Strøm, V., InSCI (2020). *Quality of life and the health system: A 22-country comparison of the situation of people with spinal cord injury*. Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation, 101(12), 2167-2176. [doi](#).
- Huang, J., **Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Rubineli, S., Brach, Mirjam., Gemperli, A. (2019). *What influences the use of professional home care for individuals with spinal cord injury? A cross sectional study on family caregivers*. Spinal cord, 57(11), 924-932. [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.** (2018). *Place of residence & financial hardship: the situation of people with spinal cord injury*. International journal for equity in health, 17, 1-13. [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.** (2018). *Spillover effects of long-term disabilities on close family members*. Applied Health Economics and Health Policy, 16, 347-355. [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Pacheco Barzallo, A., Narvaez, E. (2018). *The 2016 earthquake in Ecuador: Zika outbreak after a natural disaster*. Health security, 16(2), 127-134.[doi](#).
- Weber, S., Puddu, S., **Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, (2017). *Move it! How an electric contest motivates households to shift their load profile*. Energy Economics, 68, 255-270. [doi](#).
- Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, & Gross-Hemmi, M. H. (2017). *The cross-cultural societal response to SCI: health and related systems*. American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, 96(2), S41-S54. [doi](#).
- Gross-Hemmi, M. H., & **Pacheco Barzallo, D.** (2017). *People with spinal cord injury in Switzerland*. American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, 96(2), S116-S119. [doi](#).

- Pacheco Barzallo, D. (2006).** *Ecuador: Business cycles and fiscal policy*, Cuestiones Económicas, Central Bank of Ecuador, Cuestiones Económicas, 22(3), 83-83. [doi](#).
- Scientific reports Gemperli, A., Rubinelli, S., Brach, M., Huang, J., **Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Essig, S., & Zanini, C. **(2018).** *Supporting family caregivers of people with spinal cord injury*, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (BAG).
- Perret, L., Fahrni, J., Wyrsh, N., Riesen, Y., Puddu, S., Weber, S. & **Pacheco Barzallo, D. (2015).** *FLEXI: Determining the flexibilization potential of the electricity demand*, Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) (Publication 291032).
- Book chapters Teran, L., Pincay, J., **Pacheco Barzallo, D.**, Stepnicka, M., and Simancas-Racines, D. **(2020).** *Health recommendation system framework for the optimization of medical decisions*, Cognitive Computing - Theorie, Technik und Praxis. Springer Vieweg, Wiesbaden, 249-272. [Link](#).

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## Selected conferences and seminars

- 2024 International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) Annual Scientific Meeting, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2024 EuHEA PhD-Student & Supervisor Conference, Lucerne, Switzerland
- 2024 Workshop, Economic Impact of Rehabilitation, Armenian State Pedagogical, Yerevan
- 2024 Workshop, Health Economics, Dubrovnik Workshop
- 2024 International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) Annual Scientific Meeting, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2023 ETH Lecture Series, Strengthening Rehabilitation in Switzerland - Research and Aspects of Implementation
- 2022 RehabWeek, Assistive Technologies - Innovations in contrast to financial models Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2022 International Society of Physical and Medical Rehabilitation (ISPRM), Lisbon, Portugal
- 2019 Technical Meeting of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems, Lucerne, Switzerland
- 2019 International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), Nice, France
- 2018 International Conference on Health Economics, Management and Policy, Athens, Greece

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## Referee activities

BMC Health Services Research, Pharmaeconomics, SSM-Population Health, BMC Public Health, BMJ Public Health, Economic Review, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Economic Review, Social Determinants of Health, Spinal Cord Medicine, Annals of Medicine, Health and Social Care in the Community, International Journal for Equity in Health, World Health Organization - Rehabilitation Section.

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## Teaching

**University of Lucerne, Master in Health Sciences**

- 2021 - Present Health Systems & Services (6 ECTs) - *autumn semester*
- Social Impact of Health (3 ECTs) - *spring semester*
- Ph.D Colloquium (1 ECTs) - *spring and autumn semester*
- 2016 - 2020 Health Impact Assessment (3 ECTs)
- Health Services Evaluation & Improvement (3 ECTs)
- 2015 - 2016 International Comparison of Health Systems (3 ECTs)
- 2017, 2021 Organization of the Faculty Lecture Series

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**University of Neuchâtel, Master in Applied Economics**

2016 - 2022 Social Policy (3 ECTs)  
2014 - 2015 Applied Economics (3 ECTs)

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## Advising Experience

**University of Lucerne, *Master in Health Sciences***

**Master theses:**

Caballero, R. (2024), Müller, J. (2024), Chau Ha My, N. (2023), Oguzhan, N. (2022), Schnyder, A. (2021), Ruoss, M. (2020), Hernandez, R. (2019), Metz, M. (2018) Vonmoos, S. (2016), Moreira, C. (2016)

**Supervision of doctoral theses:**

2023 - Present Chau Ha My, N.

Project: Disability, Early Retirement, and Financial Hardship. What the future holds for the ageing population?

2021 - Present Metzger, S.

Project: An optimization of the provision of rehabilitation services to persons with spinal cord injury

2021 - Present Polanco, B.

Project: The social loss of disability and the economic potential of rehabilitation

2019 - 2023 Oña, A.

Project: The health-income gap: to what extent inequality explains the living situation of people with spinal cord injury

2016 - 2021 Co-supervision to Huang, J.

Project: Service utilization within informal care situations

**Reviewer of doctoral theses:**

2021 - Present Touhami, D. (2022), Tzogiou, C. (2022)

**Postdoctoral fellows:**

2024 - Present Touhami, D.

2023 - Present Oña, A.

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**University of Neuchâtel, *Master in Applied Economics***

**Master thesis:**

Schaichet, C. (2023), Pangphairree, P. (2021), Schmutz, R. (2020)