Jeffrey L. Furman – Biography & Research Interests

Jeff Furman’s research focuses on topics in strategy, international business, and innovation. Specifically, he investigates the factors driving firm-specific and location-specific differences in innovation and scientific output. His dissertation examined these issues in the context of the global pharmaceutical industry, explaining heterogeneity in organizational practices and research productivity in drug discovery laboratories. In addition to continued research on the determinants of research productivity in the pharmaceutical industry, he examines the drivers of country-level innovative output, the economics of institutions affecting knowledge diffusion in the life sciences (considering the example of Biological Resource Centers), and the historical relationship between universities and private firms in the pharmaceutical industry.

Furman grew up just north of Philadelphia, PA and attended the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from the College of Arts and Sciences and a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School. In the years following his graduation, he worked in health care and public policy consulting in Washington, DC and spent time working and studying in Germany, first as a research assistant at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB) and later with an organization assisting in the privatization of firms in Saxony. He completed his Ph.D. at the Sloan School of Management at MIT in August 2001, and has been a member of Boston University’s Department of Strategy & Policy since September 2001 and a Faculty Research Fellow at the NBER since 2004.

A summary of his research and list of published and working papers can be found at http://people.bu.edu/furman/, and he can be contacted at furman@bu.edu.