Organization Capital and Mergers and Acquisitions*

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Abstract

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Keywords: corporate acquisitions; organization capital; SG&A; industry growth uncertainty; instrumental variable; endogeneity

JEL Classification: G34

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Abstract

Using a large sample of completed U.S. merger and acquisition (M&A) transactions over the period 1984-2011, we uncover one important source of value creation—acquirer organization capital as measured by capitalized selling, general, and administrative expenditures. We find that acquirers with more organization capital achieve significantly higher abnormal announcement period returns, and better post-merger operating and stock performance than acquirers with less organization capital. Post-merger, high organization-capital acquirers cut more R&D expenditures and capital expenditures, improve more on gross profit margin, and reduce more leverage than do low organization-capital acquirers. We further find that the effect of acquirer organization capital on deal performance is stronger when the acquirer has a high status or is a serial acquirer. Our main findings are robust to different measures of organization capital and endogeneity concerns. We conclude that organization capital is one important means to realize merger gains.

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1. Introduction

Organization capital, as characterized by Evenson and Westphal (1995, p.2237)—"the knowledge used to combine human skills and physical capital into systems for producing and delivering want-satisfying products"—has long been recognized as an important factor in the production process of a firm. Examples of organization capital include Wal-Mart's supply chain management system, Dell's built-to-order distribution system, Microsoft's software development system, and Disney's animatronics and show design system. Not surprisingly, ever since Adam Smith, economists have been closely studying the properties of organization capital and its effects on production output.^{1,2}

A number of recent studies show positive effects of organization capital on firm value and stock returns. Lev and Radhakrishnan (2005) find that organization capital has significant explanatory power for the market value of a firm over and beyond its assets in place and growth opportunities. Lev, Radhakrishnan, and Zhang (2009) further document that organization capital is positively related to future growth in operating income and sales and future stock returns of a firm. Lustig, Syverson, and Van Nieuwerburgh (2011) document the increased importance of organization capital in production that contributes to increased CEO pay inequality and pay-performance sensitivity. Carlin, Chowdhry, and Garmaise (2012) show that firms with more organization capital have lower employee turnover, and higher diversity in skill and wages among incumbent employees. Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013) develop a model to show that the time-varying division of cash flows from organization capital between shareholders and key talent of the firm imposes an additional risk to shareholders. As a result, firms with more organization capital have average returns that are 4.6% higher than firms with less

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¹ In the first chapter of "*The Wealth of Nations*," Adam Smith describes how the process of manufacturing a pin is divided into 18 separate steps. If each man had "wrought separately and independently, they certainly could not each of them have made twenty." However, production was organized so that a single worker would perform a small number of these discrete tasks. In this manner, Smith states that "ten men could make some 48,000 pins a day," increasing productivity by a factor of 240. This set of processes that enhance a firm's output, holding labor and physical capital fixed, might be one of the first examples of organization capital in action. Evenson and Westphal (1995) note that organization capital in modern corporations generally relates to a firm's operating capabilities, investment capabilities, and innovation capabilities.

² See, for example, Marshall (1930), Arrow (1962), Rosen (1972), Jovanovic (1979), Prescott and Visscher (1980), Becker (1993), Ericson and Pakes (1995), Hall (2000), Tomer (1987), Jovanovic and Rousseau (2001), Atkeson and Kehoe (2005), McGrattan and Prescott (2010), and Bloom, Sadun, and Reenen (2012).

organization capital.

In this paper, we examine whether and how organization capital helps create shareholder value through corporate mergers and acquisitions (M&As). By definition, organization capital is the body of knowledge and business processes and systems to facilitate the match between human capital and physical capital, and more organization capital improves the match leading to operational efficiency. Such body of knowledge is potentially transferrable from one organization (e.g., the acquirer) to another (e.g., the target firm).³

The experience of Danaher Corporation illustrates the role of organization capital in M&As and in creating shareholder value. Danaher Corporation, headquartered in Washington D.C., is one of the largest manufacturing companies in the U.S. with over 50,000 employees. Its products are concentrated in the fields of design, manufacture, and marketing of industrial and consumer products. It operates in four segments: Professional Instrumentation, Medical Technologies, Industrial Technologies, and Tools & Components. The science and technology giant, according to Anand, Collis, and Hood (2011), has "a systematic and wide-ranging set of organizational processes the firm has developed to drive growth and create value," which is named Danaher Business System (DBS). Since the 1980s, the firm has acquired several hundred companies and successfully applied DBS to the acquired firms to capture operational efficiency gains from the combination. Over the years,

In this paper, we ask the following research questions: Do firms with more (less) organization capital make good (bad) acquirers in the market for corporate control? What are the underlying mechanisms? Although prior work has shown a positive association between organization capital and

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³ For example, a key factor that drives the main results in Lustig, Syverson, and Van Nieuwerburgh (2011) and Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013) is that at least part of organization capital is embodied in the key talent of a firm and, thus, can be transferred to other firms as a result of job changes. In both models, this portability of organization capital results in key talent sharing the rent from organization capital with shareholders. Another example of the portability of organization capital is from Bloom, Sadun, and Van Reenen (2012; pp. 169) that "...US multinationals partially transfer their business models to their overseas affiliates—and a walk into McDonald's or Starbucks anywhere in Europe suggests that this is not an unreasonable assumption...."

firm value, our study aims to identify one particular channel through which organization capital creates value.

Using a large and comprehensive sample of completed U.S. merger and acquisition transactions over the period 1984-2011, we examine the role of acquirer organization capital in corporate acquisitions. Following Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013), we measure the stock of organization capital of an acquirer using capitalized selling, general, and administrative (SG&A) expenditures, a large part of which consists of expenses related to labor and information technology (IT) (white collar worker wages, training, consulting, and information technology expenses).

We show that acquirers with more organization capital achieve significantly higher abnormal announcement period returns, and better post-merger operating and stock performance than acquirers with less organization capital. *Ceteris paribus*, a one-standard-deviation increase in pre-acquisition organization capital of the acquirer is on average associated with 0.27 percentage points increase in abnormal announcement period returns, 1.62 percentage points increase in post-merger three-year improvement in operating performance, and 8.81 percentage points increase in post-merger three-year buy-and-hold abnormal returns. Using alternative measures of organization capital and controlling for corporate governance practices of the acquirer does not change our main findings.

To shed light on how organization capital helps create shareholder value in M&As, we first examine post-merger corporate policy changes associated with high organization-capital acquirers. We find that within the three-year period after deal completion, high organization-capital acquirers cut more R&D expenditures and capital expenditures, improve more on gross profit margin, and reduce more leverage compared to low organization-capital acquirers. We further examine what acquirer characteristics are conducive to the effect of acquirer organization capital on deal performance. We find that the effect of acquirer organization capital on deal performance is strengthened when the acquirer has a high status as measured by excess analyst coverage, or the acquirer is a serial acquirer.

Naturally, there are concerns that our findings may be driven by endogeneity. One concern is selection whereby high organization-capital acquirers simply choose better deals, rather than their organization capital makes those deals better. Another is that omitted variables drive both acquirers to have more organization capital and deals to be better. A third concern is reverse causality. We address these concerns in a number of ways.

To help separate the selection from treatment effects of acquirer organization capital, we take a multi-pronged approach. First, if our findings were solely driven by treatment, we would expect that high organization-capital firms good at making deals to be more acquisitive. We find that firms with more organization capital are significantly less acquisitive than firms with low organization capital. Second, conditional on doing a deal, we find that high organization-capital acquirers tend to pair up with small target firms with more organization capital, poor operating and stock performance but high growth opportunities. Finally, we employ the difference-in-differences (DD) estimators that are commonly used to recover the treatment effects. The identification challenge is that the association between acquirer organization capital and post-merger deal outcome could be due to the endogenous selection of firm pairs into a treatment group, rather than due to the impact of acquirer organization capital on post-merger deal outcome. We employ a sample of acquirers in failed merger bids for reasons unrelated to acquirer organization capital and compare their subsequent performance with a sample of acquirers in completed deals matched on pre-bid performance measures. We show that high organization-capital acquirers in completed deals perform significantly better than their counterparts in failed merger bids.

Taken together, the evidence provides some support for the selection effect whereby high organization-capital acquirers have the ability to identify underperforming firms with upside potentials. On the other hand, it is worth noting that had our findings been solely driven by selection, we would not have expected to see significant post-merger corporate policy changes made by high organization-capital acquirers or better performance outcome of high organization-capital acquirers in

completed deals compared to those in failed merger bids. We conclude that our main findings of better deal performance outcome associated with high organization-capital acquirers are driven by both the selection and treatment effects of organization capital.

To address the omitted variable concern whereby an unobservable causing both more acquirer organization capital and better deal outcome leading to spurious association between the two, we employ the instrumental variable approach to extract the exogenous component of acquirer organization capital and relate it to deal performance. Our instrumental variable captures the demand side consideration for firms to invest in organization capital—the industry-level growth uncertainty. Given that this variable is correlated with industry-level merger waves, we employ the residual as the instrumental variable from regressing the industry-level growth uncertainty on the industry-level merger activity. We find that after instrumenting acquirer organization capital, there remains a significant positive association between the exogenous component of acquirer organization capital and deal performance.

Finally, we use the measure of acquirer organization capital taken three years instead of one year before deal announcement to help address the reverse causality concern. We conclude that our main findings are robust to endogeneity concerns.

Our paper differs from prior work and thus makes contributions to the literature in the following dimensions. First, we add to the voluminous M&A literature by uncovering one important source of value creation—acquirer organization capital (see, for example, the two volumes on corporate takeovers edited by Eckbo (2010a, 2010b). Using a multitude of approaches including post-merger policy changes in acquirers, a quasi-natural experiment involving failed merger bids, and the instrumental-variable approach, we establish a causal link between more acquirer organization capital and better deal outcome.

Second, we add to the young and growing literature on organization capital and firm

performance (see, for example, Lev, Radhakrishnan, and Zhang (2009) and Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013)) by identifying one important channel through which organization capital contributes to firm value—making value-enhancing M&As whereby acquirers apply their superior organization capital to improve operational efficiency of the combined entity.

Finally, we add to the literature on the importance of intangibles in firm value and corporate policy. Prior work shows that reputation, employee satisfaction, and organization capital are associated with sustained superior financial performance (see for example, Roberts and Dowling (2002), Lev, Radhakrishnan, and Zhang (2009), and Edmans (2011)). Carlin and Gervais (2009) study how managerial diligence and employee work ethic affect employment contracts and firm value. Berk, Stanton, and Zechner (2010) and Falato, Kadyrzhanova, and Sim (2013) highlight the importance of human capital in corporate financial policy. Our findings in this paper suggest that organization capital has important implications for corporate acquisition policy—high organization-capital firms are less acquisitive but make better deals.

The paper proceeds as follows. In the next section, we review related literature and develop our hypotheses. We describe our sample formation and construction of key variables and provide a sample overview in Section 3. We present the main results on the role of organization capital in M&As in Section 4. In Section 5, we examine the underlying mechanisms behind the effect of organization capital on deal performance. We address endogeneity concerns in Section 6 and conclude in Section 7.

2. Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

2.1. Related Literature

Our paper is closely related to and motivated by two strands of the literature. First, there is a large and growing literature examining what type of firms makes a good acquirer. The M&A literature

(see reviews by Andrade, Mitchell, and Stafford (2001) and Betton, Eckbo, and Thorburn (2008)) generally suggests that over half of the deals destroy acquirer shareholder value, and on average, acquirer shareholders at best breakeven. This begs the question of why M&As still take place. The literature has put forward many explanations, such as agency problems, hubris, overvaluation of equity, financial and operating synergies, and industry shocks, for the sources of value creation and destruction. A recent literature further suggests that certain firm characteristics are associated with superior deal performance, such as low cash holdings (Harford (1999)), small firm size (Moeller, Schlingemann, and Stulz (2004)), the presence of monitoring shareholders (Chen, Harford, and Li (2007)), and good corporate governance practices (Masulis, Wang, and Xie (2007)). We contribute to the M&A literature by demonstrating a new source of value creation—the acquirer firm's organization capital.

Second, a young and growing literature in finance and accounting studies the effects of organization capital on firm policies and performance. Lev and Radhakrishnan (2005), Lev, Radhakrishnan, and Zhang (2009), and Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013) show that a firm's organization capital is an important determinant of its operating performance, firm value, and stock returns. Lustig, Syverson, and Van Nieuwerburgh (2011) demonstrate that organization capital contributes to increased CEO pay inequality and pay-performance sensitivity and the accompanying decrease in labor market reallocation. Carlin, Chowdhry, and Garmaise (2012) further show that high organization-capital firms experience low employee turnover, and possess high diversity in skill and wages among incumbent employees who are promoted from within the firm. Using the stock of assets created by R&D expenditures, computer software expenditures, and human and organizational capital, Falato, Kadyrzhanova, and Sim (2013) show that the rise in intangible capital explains a big part of U.S. firms' large cash holdings. We contribute to this strand of literature by showing that organization capital plays a significant role in value creation through corporate acquisitions.

2.2. Our Hypotheses

As defined in the introduction, and further elaborated by Lev, Radhakrishnan, and Zhang (2009, p. 276) that firms with more organization capital possess "the agglomeration of business processes and systems, as well as a unique corporate culture, that enables them to convert factors of production into output more efficiently than competitors." Importantly, this agglomeration of business processes and systems cannot be easily mimicked by competitors, thus more organization capital captures firms' fundamental ability to generate superior performance.

We focus on the role of acquirer organization capital in M&As for the following reasons. First, organization capital is more about the body of knowledge and business processes and systems that make a firm excel, not just about the technology (as modeled in Faria (2008)). Typically, acquirers are much larger than target firms and are more likely to apply their organization capital to target firms as modeled in Carlin, Chowdhry, and Garmaise (2011) and shown in our motivating example in the introduction instead of the other way around. Second, after deal completion, acquirer managers are most likely to be in charge of the merged entity. If acquirers had low organization capital to start with as reflected in low-efficiency business processes and systems and poor managerial skills, then these acquirer managers may not be able to fully utilize target firms' organization capital, or even destroy the value of target firms' organization capital. It is thus harder to detect any meaningful association between target firm organization capital and deal outcome. We believe our acquirer-centric approach provides a clean setting to examine the role of organization capital in corporate acquisitions.

Given that organization capital is the body of knowledge and business processes and systems that facilitate the match between human capital and physical capital of a firm to enhance its productivity, we expect that an acquirer with more organization capital can also achieve superior merger outcome through applying/transferring its own organization capital to a target firm in order to improve the operational efficiency of the combined entity. Using survey data of 101 horizontal acquisitions conducted by U.S. and European acquirers, Capron and Pistre (2002) find that acquirers

often transfer their own product innovation capabilities, marketing expertise, and general management expertise to target firms, and such (expected) knowledge transfer from acquirers to target firms is positively associated with acquirer abnormal announcement period returns. Using both the U.K. and continental European plant-level datasets, Bloom, Sadun, and Reenen (2012) show that affiliates of U.S. multinationals achieve higher productivity than non-U.S. multinationals and domestic firms from their IT capital and are also more IT intensive. They further show that U.S. multinationals' superior management practices account for most of their higher output elasticity of IT. Their evidence provides further support that the body of knowledge and business systems and practices of U.S. multinational can be partially transferred to their overseas affiliates.

By mobilizing and exploiting its superior organization capital, we expect that a high organization-capital acquirer will realize greater operating performance improvement and reap more synergistic gains after the acquisition than does a low organization-capital acquirer. In an efficient market, such long-term gains to the acquirer should be at least partially reflected in announcement period returns and most likely reflected in post-merger long-run operating and stock performance. We thus have our hypotheses as follows:

H1: Acquisitions made by high organization-capital acquirers are associated with higher announcement period returns than those by low organization-capital acquirers.

H2: Acquisitions made by high organization-capital acquirers are associated with better post-merger operating and stock performance than those by low organization-capital acquirers.

One alternative is that high organization-capital acquirers are simply good at picking better deals, and there is no transferring of organization capital from acquirers to target firms. Another possibility is that unobservable firm characteristics lead to both more organization capital and better deals. A third possibility is the reverse causality story whereby successful acquisitions generate more organization capital in the acquirers.

Our empirical analyses are designed to test the two hypotheses and also attempt to distinguish

between the alternative explanations. In the next section we describe our sample and key variable construction and present descriptive statistics.

3. Sample Formation and Overview

3.1. Our Sample

We obtain a large and comprehensive sample of completed M&A transactions from the Thomson One Banker SDC database for the period 1984-2011. We impose the following filters to obtain our final sample: 1) the deal is classified as "Acquisition of Assets (AA)", "Acquisition of Majority Interest (AM)," or "Merger (M)" by the data provider; 2) the acquirer is a U.S. public firm listed on the AMEX, NYSE, or NASDAQ; 3) the acquirer holds less than 50% of the shares of the target firm before deal announcement and intends to purchase at least 50% of the shares of the target firm through the deal; 4) the deal value is at least \$1 million (in 1983 dollar value); 5) the relative size of the deal (i.e., the ratio of transaction value over book value of acquirer total assets) is at least 1%; 6) the target firm is domiciled in the U.S.; 7) the target firm is a public firm, a private firm, or a subsidiary; and 8) basic financial and stock return information is available for the acquirer. Our final sample consists of 17,141 completed deals for the period 1984-2011.

Table 1 Panel A provides a sample overview. We see a large merger wave centered around the Internet bubble, and a smaller wave in the period leading to the recent financial crisis. Half of the deals involve private target firms, about 30% of the deals aim at subsidiaries, and the rest of the target firms are publicly listed.

3.2. Measuring Organization Capital

Following Lev and Radhakrishnan (2005), Lev, Radhakrishnan, and Zhang (2009), and Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013), we measure a firm's stock of organization capital using capitalized

SG&A expenditures.⁴ Among other items, SG&A expenditures include IT investments, consulting, employee training costs, advertising and marketing expenses, research and development expenses, and information systems and distribution channel investments, which are expenses aimed at improving a firm's competitive edge, hence its organization capital.

We compute the stock of organization capital (OC) using the perpetual inventory method. Specifically, we recursively estimate the stock of organization capital by cumulating the deflated value of SG&A expenditures,

$$OC_{i,t} = (1 - depr_{OC})OC_{i,t-1} + \frac{SG\&A_{i,t}}{cpi_t},$$
 (1)

where $depr_{OC}$ is the depreciation rate and cpi_t is the consumer price index. To implement the law of motion in Equation (1), we first choose the initial stock according to

$$OC_{i,0} = \frac{SG\&A_{i,1}}{g + depr_{OC}},$$

where the average real growth rate of firm-level SG&A expenditures, g, is 10% and the depreciate rate is 15%, which is the depreciation rate used by the BEA in their estimation of R&D capital in 2006 (Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013)). $SG&A_{i,1}$ is firm i's first-year SG&A with non-missing data in Compustat. We treat subsequent missing values of firm i's SG&A as zero. Finally, we scale organization capital by a firm's book value of total assets.

Given that organizational capital is a relatively new concept in the finance and accounting literature, it is important to understand how organization capital is correlated with other firm characteristics. We compute organization capital for each firm in the Compustat universe and then sort firms into organization capital quartile every year during the sample period 1984-2011. Table A1 Panel A in the Appendix compares firm characteristics between firms in the top and bottom

⁴ Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013) cross-validate this measure of organization capital in a number of ways. First, they show that high organization-capital firms have higher managerial quality scores according to the measure of Bloom and Van Reenen (2007). Second, high organization-capital firms spend more on information technology. Finally, high organization-capital firms are also more likely to list "loss of key personnel" as a risk factor in their 10-K filings.

⁵ It is worth noting that our results are robust to choices of the depreciation rate ranging between 10% and 40%.

organization capital quartiles.

We first show that more organization capital is associated with low contemporaneous ROA (ROS). This is not surprising because organization capital is based on capitalized SG&A expenditures, which is a cash expense in computing ROA (ROS). On the other hand, investment in organization capital is expected to improve firm performance over time. We show that more organization capital is associated with next year's improvement in ROA (ROS). Importantly, we show that firms with more organization capital are associated with higher gross profit margin and future improvement in gross profit margin, through cutting cost of goods sold. Finally, we show that firms with more organization capital tend to be much smaller, and have lower sales growth, higher M/B, higher cash holdings and lower leverage than firms with low organization capital. Table A2 Panel B presents the correlation matrix between organization capital and firm characteristics. The same pattern emerges as that in Panel A.

3.3. Measures of Deal Performance

Following prior work (see, for example, Chen, Harford, and Li (2007) and Masulis, Wang, and Xie (2007)), we employ a number of deal performance variables: *CAR(-1, 1)*, *AROA1*, *AROA3*, *BHAR1*, and *BHAR3*. The reason for us to have multiple post-merger long-run performance measures is that serial acquirers are quite common (Fuller, Netter, and Stegemoller (2002)), and we want to capture the long-run performance effect of a particular deal, so the one-year window seems to be a nice compromise to the three-year window typically used to measure long-run performance. Further, when computing long-run performance measures, we remove any acquirers subsequently making other large acquisitions (as defined to be the ratio of transaction value to book value of acquirer total assets greater than 1%) over the one-year or three-year window. Our results do not change in any qualitative manner if we do not remove such acquirers (with confounding deals) when computing long-run performance measures.

CAR(-1, 1) is the cumulative abnormal return (in percentage points) of the acquirer from one day before to one day after the deal announcement date (day θ). Daily abnormal stock return is calculated by subtracting the CRSP value-weighted market return from the stock return of the acquirer. 6 $\Delta ROA3$ is the average return on assets (ROA) (in percentage points) of the acquirer in the three-year period after deal completion minus ROA of the acquirer in the year prior to deal announcement. $\Delta ROA1$ is the change in acquirer ROA from the year before deal announcement to the year after deal completion. BHAR3 (BHAR1) is the three-year (one-year) buy-and-hold abnormal stock return (in percentage points) of the acquirer after deal completion following Chen, Harford and Li (2007; pp. 287).

Table 1 Panel B provides basic summary statistics. Table A2 in the Appendix provides detailed definitions of all variables. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles.

We show that the mean CAR(-1, 1) is positive at 1.42%, and the median is 0.62%. By comparison, Moeller, Schlingemann, and Stulz (2004) report a mean (median) acquirer CAR(-1, 1) of 1.1% (0.36%) for 12,023 acquisitions from 1980 to 2001, and Betton, Eckbo, and Thorburn (2008) report a mean (median) acquirer CAR(-1, 1) of 0.73% (0%) for 15,987 transactions from 1980 to 2005. In contrast, post-merger long-run operating and stock performance is dismal with negative mean and median values, confirming prior findings that most acquisitions do not create shareholder value in the long run (Rau and Vermaelen (1998), and Betton, Eckbo, and Thorburn (2008)).

The mean (median) ratio of organization capital to total assets is 1.10 (0.81). By comparison, Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013, Table 3) report the median ratio of organization capital to total assets is 0.27 for the low organization capital quintile and 2.71 for the high organization capital quintile.

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⁶ It is worth noting that our main results do not change qualitatively if daily abnormal stock returns are computed using the market model and the CRSP value-weighted market returns, with the estimation window being days (-200, -60) prior to the deal announcement date (Chen, Harford, and Li (2007)).

Before making acquisitions, acquirers have positive mean (median) ROA of 1.59% (4.07%), mean (median) M/B of 3.76 (2.43), and strong stock returns in the year prior to making a bid with a mean (median) value of 36.1% (18.8%). The mean (median) leverage ratio of acquirers is 0.19 (0.13), and the mean (median) fraction of shares outstanding held by the top five institutional investors is 0.21 (0.20). In terms of the Compustat size decile, our average (median) acquirer is in the 9th (7th) decile.

In terms of deal characteristics, about a quarter of the deals use cash, a fifth use stock, and the rest employs a mix of cash and stock. Close to 40% of the deals are diversifying deals involving acquirer and target firms belonging to different two-digit SIC codes. Less than 5% of the deals are tender offers. The mean (median) ratio of the transaction value to acquirer book assets is 0.40 (0.12). Most of the sample characteristics are generally comparable to those reported in the literature (see, for example, Andrade, Mitchell, and Stafford (2001), Moeller, Schlingemann, and Stulz (2004), and Bena and Li (2012)).

Table 1 Panel C presents the correlation matrix of the variables. We show that acquirer organization capital is positively and significantly associated with CAR(-1, 1), BHAR1, and $\Delta ROA3$ at the 1% level. The correlation matrix suggests little problem of multicolinearity. Given that omitted variable bias in univariate correlations can mask the true relations between the variables, next we employ multiple regressions to examine the role of acquirer organization capital in M&As.

4. Main Results

4.1. Acquirer Organization Capital and Deal Performance

To test our hypotheses, we run cross-sectional regressions of the deal performance variables on pre-acquisition acquirer organization capital and other firm and deal controls:

 $Deal\ Performance_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 OC_{i,t-1} + \beta_2 ROA_{i,t-1} + \beta_3 M/B_{i,t-1} + \beta_4 Leverage_{i,t-1} + \beta_4 COA_{i,t-1} + \beta_5 COA_{i,t$

 $\beta_5 Past\ Return_{i,t-1} + \beta_6 Top5\ institutions_{i,t-1} + \beta_7 Firm\ size_{i,t-1} + \beta_8 All\ cash_{i,t} + \beta_9 All\ stock_{i,t} + \beta_{10} Diversifying_{i,t} + \beta_{11} Tender\ offer_{i,t} + \beta_{12} Relative\ size_{i,t} + \beta_{13} Private\ target_{i,t} + \beta_{14} Subsidiary\ target_{i,t} + Industry\ FEs + Year\ FEs + \varepsilon_{i,t} \qquad (2)$ where the dependent variable could be one of the five deal performance measures: CAR(-1,1), $\Delta ROA1$, BHAR1, $\Delta ROA3$, and BHAR3. The control variables closely follow prior literature (see Andrade, Mitchell, and Stafford (2001), Moeller, Schlingemann, and Stulz (2004), and Chen, Harford, and Li (2007)). In all specifications, we control for industry (at the two-digit SIC level) and year fixed effects and present standard errors that are clustered by acquirers and robust to heteroskedasticity.

Table 2 presents the main results. In column (1), we show that acquirer organization capital is positively and significantly associated with acquirer abnormal announcement period returns at the 1% level, lending strong support for our first hypothesis (H1). In terms of the economic significance, one standard deviation increase in acquirer organization capital is associated with 0.27% increase in CAR(-1, 1), noting that the sample mean CAR(-1, 1) is 1.42%.

In columns (2)-(5), we show that acquirer organization capital is positively and significantly associated with all measures of post-merger long-run performance at the 1% level, lending strong support for our second hypothesis (H2). In terms of the economic significance, one standard deviation increase in acquirer organization capital is associated with 1.19% in $\Delta ROA1$, 4.08% in BHAR1, 1.62% in $\Delta ROA3$, and 8.81% in BHAR3, noting that both mean and median values for these four measures are negative.

In addition to the above key findings, we further show that pre-acquisition acquirer ROA and M/B are negatively and significantly associated with post-merger changes in ROA, the former being consistent with the well-known mean reversion pattern in ROA (Fama and French (2000)) and the latter being consistent with the long-run underperformance of glamour (i.e., high M/B) acquirers (Rau and Vermaelen (1998)). Ownership by the five largest institutions is negatively and significantly

associated with acquirer abnormal announcement period returns, while positively and significantly associated with post-merger changes in acquirer ROA. Acquirer size is negatively and significantly associated with acquirer abnormal announcement period returns, but positively and significantly associated with most of the post-merger long-run performance measures. All cash deals are mostly positively associated with deal performance, while all stock deals are mostly negatively associated with deal performance. Diversifying deals are negatively and significantly associated with post-merger changes in operating performance. Our findings on the control variables are generally consistent with those documented in the M&A literature (see, for example, Harford (1999), Fuller, Netter, and Stegemoller (2002), Moeller, Schlingemann, and Stulz (2004), and Betton, Eckbo, and Thorburn (2008)), which gives us some confidence in our findings on the positive association between acquirer organization capital and deal performance.

4.2. Using Alternative Measures of Acquirer Organization Capital

There are several concerns about our measure of organization capital. First, accounting practices governing the exact composition of SG&A expenditures vary across industries, and hence the measurement error in firm-level organization capital may have an industry component. To address this concern, instead of using the construct for organization capital directly, we use the industry-median adjusted ratio of organization capital to total assets. Table 3 Panel A presents the results. For brevity, we only present the coefficient estimate on acquirer organization capital in this table. We show that industry-median adjusted acquirer organization capital is positively and significantly associated with deal performance using all five performance measures.

Second, organization capital might be measured with error, because the primary input to the measure—SG&A expenditures might contain expenses not directly related to building up a firm's unique business processes and systems that lead to its competitive edge. If the fraction of SG&A expenditures that represents investment in organization capital does not vary across firms, this error

will not affect firms' ranking in terms of the ratio of organization capital to total assets. One way to address this concern is not to use the direct construct, but sort yearly firms in the Compustat universe into organization capital deciles and assign our sample of acquirers into those decile bins and use the resulting rank of acquirer organization capital in the multivariate regressions. Table 3 Panel B presents the results. We show that again, a high rank of acquirer organization capital is associated with significantly better deal performance using all five measures.

Third, we combine the above two approaches and sort yearly firms in the Compustat universe into deciles based on the industry-median adjusted ratio of organization capital to total assets. We then use the resulting decile rank in the multivariate regressions and the results are provided in Panel C.

Again, a higher rank of industry-median adjusted acquirer organization capital is significantly associated with better deal performance across all five measures.

Fourth, we also employ an alternative five-year straight line depreciation approach to capitalize SG&A expenditures and the results are provided in Panel D. Again, we show that using this alternative measure, acquirer organization capital is positively and significantly associated with deal performance measured in different ways.

Lastly, instead of using capitalized SG&A expenditures to proxy for organization capital, we use the ratio of SG&A expenditures to total assets and Panel E presents the results. We show that high investment in organization capital as measured by acquirer SG&A expenditures is positively and significantly associated with all long-run deal performance measures but not acquirer abnormal announcement period returns. Given that the results using the flow measure of organization capital appear to be weaker than our earlier results based on the stock measure (Table 2), it seems quite unlikely that our main findings based on the stock measure of organization capital are mostly driven by reverse causality.

4.3. Cross-Validating Our Measure of Organization Capital

Given that our measure of organization capital is based on SG&A expenditures which might include items unrelated to our intent that organization capital is the set of business processes and systems that improve operational efficiency, it is important for us to validate the measure using some well-established markers for best practices in the corporate world. We employ the following three measures of firm quality as alternatives to organization capital: the managerial ability score of Demerjian, Lev, and McVay (2012), the Fortune magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work for in America" list (see Edmans (2011) for details), and the Computerworld's "100 Best Places to Work in IT" list.

Using the data envelopment analysis (DEA), Demerjian, Lev, and McVay (2012) develop a new measure of managerial ability based on managers' efficiency, relative to their industry peers, in transforming corporate resources to revenues. These authors show that this new measure outperforms traditional measures (e.g., stock returns, media coverage, etc.) in capturing managerial ability.

Black and Lynch (2005) argue that employer-provided training is an important component of workplace organization and organization capital. In their framework, organization capital captures training, employee voice, and work design, which are the main criteria Fortune uses to create its "Best Companies to Work for" list (see Edmans (2011) and Table A2 in the Appendix for details). Edmans (2011) shows that firms on Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work for in America" list have greater employee satisfaction and deliver superior long-run stock returns. The list is available in 1984, 1993, and 1998-2012.⁷ Given our lead-lag specification in Equation (2), we keep deals announced in 1985, 1994, and 1999-2011 for this analysis. The key variable of interest, Fortune's best company, equals the reversed rank on the Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work for in America" list (as in Edmans (2011)) for an acquirer on the list, and zero otherwise.

Finally, we also use the Computerworld's "100 Best Places to Work in IT" as an alternative measure of acquirer organization capital (see details on how the list is compiled in Table A2). Both

⁷ We thank Alex Edmans for providing the Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work for in America" list.

Bloom, Sadun, and Reenen (2012) and Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013) take the view that investment in IT is an important part of organization capital. The list is available in 2003, 2006, and 2009. Given our lead-lag specification in Equation (2), we use the 2003 list for deals announced in 2004-2006, the 2006 list for deals announced in 2007-2009, and the 2009 list for deals announced in 2010-2011. The key variable of interest, Computerworld's best place in IT, equals the reversed rank on the Computerworld's "100 Best Places to Work in IT" list for an acquirer on the list, and zero otherwise. Table A3 in the Appendix presents the results from this exercise.

We first show that all these measures of firm quality are positively and significantly correlated with organization capital (Panel A). We further show that these alternative measures of firm quality are largely positively associated with our measures of deal outcome and in a number of cases, these measures are positively and significantly associated with deal outcome, and are never negatively and significantly associated with deal outcome (Panel B). In summary, the exercise in Table A3 gives us some confidence that our measure of organization capital is highly correlated with what we intent it to capture—the body of knowledge and business processes and systems leading to operational efficiency.

4.4. Controlling for Corporate Governance

Prior work has shown that corporate governance matters in M&A decisions (see, for example, Cotter, Shivdasani, and Zenner (1997), Harford and Li (2007), and Masulis, Wang, and Xie (2007)). So it is important to control for acquirer governance characteristics when examining the role of organization capital in M&As. Table A4 in the Appendix presents the results when we control for corporate governance practices including executive equity-based pay, board independence, and the E-index (Bebchuk, Cohen, and Ferrell (2009)). It is worth noting that our sample is materially reduced due to data availability on those governance measures.

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⁸ Our main findings do not change in any qualitative manner if we use Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick's (2003) G-index instead.

We show that our main findings remain largely unchanged: Acquirer organization capital is, most of the time, positively and significantly associated with deal performance measures. We further show that very often, our corporate governance measures are not significantly associated with deal performance and occasionally, they are negatively and significantly associated with deal performance. In untabulated analyses, we show that when we include all corporate governance controls (rather than one at a time) in the regressions, our main findings do not change in any qualitative manner.

In summary, Tables 2-3 provide strong evidence in support of our two hypotheses that high organization-capital acquirers achieve significantly higher abnormal announcement period returns and better post-acquisition long-run operating and stock performance than do low organization-capital acquirers.

5. How Acquirer Organization Capital Improve Deal Outcome?

5.1. Post-Merger Acquirer Policy Changes

To shed light on how acquirer organization capital helps create shareholder value, we first examine post-merger corporate policy changes associated with high organization-capital acquirers compared to those associated with low organization-capital acquirers. Table 4 presents the results.

The corporate policies that we examine are changes in R&D expenditures, capital expenditures, gross profit margin, and market leverage from the fiscal yearend before deal announcement to the first fiscal yearend after deal completion (Panel A) and to the third fiscal yearend after deal completion (Panel B). We find that using either window, high organization-capital acquirers cut more R&D expenditures and capital expenditures and improve more on gross profit margin compared to low organization-capital acquirers. In terms of financial policy, acquirer organization capital is associated with a significant reduction in leverage.

Overall, the evidence in Table 4 suggests that the significantly better post-deal merger

performance associated with high organization-capital acquirers are partly driven by their greater cost cutting effort.

5.2. The Role of Acquirer Status

We next examine what acquirer characteristics are conducive to the effect of acquirer organization capital on deal performance.

Carlin, Chowdhry, and Garmaise (2011) provide a rationale for value-creating mergers.

Consider a merger between two firms with very different levels of organization capital. Assuming there is some overlap between the tasks of the two firms, the low organization-capital firm at the newly merged firm will likely learn the business processes and systems of the high organization-capital firm. The value created by a merger is equal to the value of the merged firm minus the sum of the values of the two constituent firms. Since the organization capital of the firm whose business processes and systems is not adopted is simply lost, Carlin, Chowdhry, and Garmaise (2011) predict that the value created by the merger is greatest when one of the constituent firms has a lot of organization capital and the second has very little. This brings up a natural question: How effective can organization capital be transferred from one firm to another?

Management scholars suggest that firms' distinct positions in the status hierarchy generate a behavioral order that guides inter-firm interactions. For example, Chung, Singh, and Lee (2000) show that status similarity between two firms increases the likelihood of them forming alliances. Cowen (2012) argues that large status differences between merging firms create clear deference expectations that aid integration interactions. Consistent with that argument, Shen, Tang, and Chen (2013) show that the greater the status differential between an acquirer and a target firm, the more positively the market reacts to both the acquirer and the target firm upon deal announcement, the more likely it is for the deal to be completed, and the more likely the acquirer is to achieve better post-acquisition performance.

Given that the status differential between two firms is aligned with expectations of their roles embedded in corporate acquisitions, we expect that the higher status of the acquirer, the easier it is for acquirer organization capital to be applied to the operation of the combined entity, the better the post-merger deal performance.

Following Shen, Tang, and Chen (2013), we run a yearly regression of the number of analysts following (based on the number of analysts included in the earnings forecast consensus in December each year as the coverage of a firm for that particular year) on firm size decile rank and ROA decile rank within the I/B/E/S database, and use the residual of acquirer analyst coverage to proxy for acquirer status. In this way, our measure of acquirer excess analyst coverage controls for the size and performance effects in analyst coverage decisions. Table 5 Panel A presents the regression results based on an expanded specification to Equation (2) by adding this new acquirer status variable and its interaction with acquirer organization capital.

We find that high status acquirers are associated with worse post-merger operating and stock performance, while high organization-capital acquirers are associated with better deal outcome. Importantly, we find that the effect of acquirer organization capital on deal performance is strengthened when the acquirer has a high status. These results again suggest that acquirer organization capital is likely behind the improvement in deal outcome.

5.3. Serial Acquirers

So far, we have shown that an acquirer with more organization capital can achieve better deal performance outcome through applying/transferring its own organization capital to a target firm in order to improve the operational efficiency of the combined entity. We would expect that this transfer of organization capital becomes more efficient as the acquirer has done it many times in the past.

⁹ Using the natural logarithm of one plus the number of analysts following as the dependent variable does not change our main findings.

See Shen, Tang, and Chen (2013) on various validation tests of this status measure including its correlation with a media-report based measure of status and Fortune's "Most Admired Companies in America" list.

Following Fuller, Netter, and Stegemoller (2002), we define a serial acquirer to be a firm that has done at least five deals over any three-year period during the sample period. We then estimate an expanded specification to Equation (2) by adding the serial acquirer indicator variable and its interaction with acquirer organization capital. In this exercise, the post-merger long-run performance measures are limited to one-year after (not three-years after) due to the overlapping deals by construction. We do not drop any contaminating deals because our goal is to show whether and how serial acquirers perform in each every deal. Table 5 Panel B presents the results.

We show that serial acquirers are positively associated with post-merger one-year buy-and-hold abnormal returns, and acquirer organization capital is positively associated with all three deal performance variables. Importantly, the interaction term between organization capital and serial acquirer is positive and significant when the dependent variables are the two post-merger one-year performance measures.

We conclude that both high status and serial acquirers facilitate the role of acquirer organization capital in improving deal performance outcome.

6. Addressing Endogeneity

So far we have demonstrated strong positive associations between pre-acquisition acquirer organization capital and various measures of post-merger deal performance, it is a challenge to establish causality, i.e., whether more organization capital of acquirers causes good deal performance. For example, our results could be driven by self-selection whereby high organization-capital acquirers choose better deals, rather than their superior organization capital makes those deals better.

Alternatively, there might be unobservable firm characteristics that drive both more organization capital and better deal performance outcome, leading to the positive associations that we uncover in Table 2, but nothing to do with causality. Finally, there is the reverse causality concern, i.e., better

deals lead to more investment in acquirer organization capital. We address each of the above concerns in turn in this section.

6.1. Separating Selection from Treatment

To help separate the selection from treatment effects of acquirer organization capital, we take a multi-pronged approach. First, if our findings were solely driven by treatment, we would expect that high organization-capital firms good at making deals to be more acquisitive. We run a large panel data probit regression where the dependent variable is an indicator variable that takes the value of one if a firm is an acquirer (target firm) in year *t*, and zero otherwise. We use the Compustat firms over the sample period 1984-2011. Table 6 Panel A presents the results.

We find that firms with more organization capital are significantly less acquisitive than firms with low organization capital. Further, we find that organization capital is not significantly associated with a firm's likelihood to become a takeover target. This evidence supports Prescott and Visscher's (1980) view that organization capital is costly to transfer and thus high organization-capital firms prefer internal organic growth to making acquisitions. Our findings imply that unless the benefit of buying exceeds the cost of buying, high organization-capital firms would refrain from making deals. Our evidence is suggestive of some target selection in driving our main findings.

To provide further evidence in support of target selection, we sort the public target firms in our sample by their acquirers' organization capital into quartiles and compare firm characteristics between target firms in the top and bottom acquirer organization capital quartiles. Table 6 Panel B presents the results.

We find that high organization-capital acquirers tend to pair up with small target firms with more organization capital, poor operating and stock performance but high growth opportunities. This finding together with the results based on the probit regression in Panel A suggest that high organization-capital acquirers have the ability to identify underperforming firms with upside

potentials, so there are some selection effects driving our findings.

Finally, we employ the difference-in-differences (DD) estimators that are commonly used to recover the treatment effects. The identification challenge is that the association between acquirer organization capital and post-merger deal outcome could be due to the endogenous selection of firm pairs into a treatment group, rather than due to the impact of acquirer organization capital on post-merger deal outcome. As we showed earlier, high organization-capital firms are less acquisitive. As a result, comparing the average deal outcome of merged firms involving high organization-capital acquirers to that of merged firms with low organization-capital acquirers would lead to biased estimates.

To address such selection concerns, we exploit a quasi-experiment. Specifically, following Seru (2010) and Bena and Li (2012), we employ a control sample of withdrawn bids that failed for reasons exogenous to either acquirer or target organization capital. In this case, the assignment of firm pairs to the treatment sample (completed deals) versus the control sample can be treated as random with respect to the deal outcome variables that we examine.

To form the control sample, we begin with 1,066 withdrawn bids with necessary firm-level information in Compustat/CRSP announced over the period 1984 to 2011. We then read news articles for each withdrawn bid, excluding those bids that could fail due to organization capital of either merger partner, including disagreement over growth strategy, restructuring, or valuation, news of negative developments, and bids where the reason for failure cannot be determined, or that were expected to fail. We arrive at a sample of 387 withdrawn bids due to reasons exogenous to organization capital, including competing bids, objections by regulatory bodies, and adverse macroeconomic shocks or market conditions.

Next, we form a treatment sample of completed deals over the same period that are matched by acquirer (target firm) industry (2-digit SIC), and similar industry-adjusted ROA and stock return

performance in the three-year period prior to the bid. Table 7 Panel A provides the detailed steps involved to form the final withdrawn bid sample. We end up with a sample of 160 withdrawn bids with matching completed deals.

We then estimate a difference-in-differences regression using a panel dataset that contains information on deals in the treatment and control samples from three years prior to bid announcement to three years after deal completion/withdrawal:

 $\begin{aligned} \textit{Deal Performance}_{i,t} &= \alpha + \beta_1 \, \textit{Acquirer Organization Capital}_{i,t-1} + \beta_2 \, \textit{Treat}_{i,t} + \beta_3 \textit{After}_{i,t} \\ &+ \beta_4 \textit{Acquirer Organization Capital}_{i,t-1} \, \times \, \textit{Treat}_{i,t} + \beta_5 \textit{Treat}_{i,t} \, \times \, \textit{After}_{i,t} \end{aligned}$

 $+\beta_6 A cquirer\ Organization\ Capital_{i,t-1} \times After_{i,t}$

 $+\beta_7$ Acquirer Organization Capita $l_{i,t-1} \times Treat_{i,t} \times After_{i,t}$

+Other Acquirer Controls + Other FEs +
$$e_{it}$$
. (3)

The dependent variable, $Deal\ Performance_{i,b}$ is either buy-and-hold annual return or ROA of acquirer i in each year t. $Treat_{i,t}$ is an indicator variable equal to one for treatment deals, and zero otherwise (i.e., for control bids). $After_{i,t}$ is an indicator variable equal to one for the post-merger time period, and zero otherwise. In one specification, we include industry fixed effects. We also include year fixed effects to difference away a common trend affecting deals in both the treatment and control samples. In another specification, in addition to year fixed effects, we include firm fixed effects to difference away any time-invariant differences among firms. As a result, our approach estimates the differences over time in deal outcome for the same cross section units (Wooldridge (2006)). Table 7 Panel B presents the results.

Columns (1)-(2) present the panel data regression results by including industry and year fixed effects. We find that the coefficients on acquirer organization capital are positive and significant. We further find that the coefficients on two other standalone indicator variables *Treat_{i,t}* and *After_{i,t}* and three two-way interaction terms are largely insignificantly and sometimes negatively significant.

Importantly, we find that the coefficients on the interaction term $Acquirer\ Organization\ Capital_{i,t-1} \times Treat_{i,t} \times After_{i,t}$ are positive and significant. Columns (3)-(4) present the panel data regression results by including firm and year fixed effects. Given that organization capital is a stock measure that changes little over time, we find that the coefficients on acquirer organization capital are positive but not significant. Importantly, we find that the coefficients on the interaction term Acquirer $Organization\ Capital_{i,t-1} \times Treat_{i,t} \times After_{i,t}$ are positive and significant. Our findings, showing performance improvement post-merger for deals associated with high acquirer organization capital compared to the average outcome, support the significant treatment effects of acquirer organization capital on deal performance. ¹¹

Taken together, we conclude that the better deal outcome associated with high organization-capital acquirers is driven by both the selection and treatment effects of acquirer organization capital.

6.2. The Instrumental Variable Approach

To address the omitted variable concern whereby unobservables cause both more acquirer organization capital and better deal performance outcome leading to spurious association between the two, we employ the instrumental variable approach to extract the exogenous component of acquirer organization capital and relate it to deal performance outcome. We need an instrumental variable that explains firms' investment in organization capital (the relevance condition) but has nothing to do with deal performance (the exclusion restriction).

Our instrumental variable is motivated by Carlin, Chowdhry, and Garmaise (2012) who suggest that firms in rapidly changing industries are less likely to invest in organization capital because such industries have a high technology obsolescence risk which reduces the usefulness of a

¹¹ Ideally we would like to obtain direct evidence on changes taking place in target firms, but data limitation prevents us from doing so because after the deal consummation, there is no separate financial reporting on target firms.

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firm's organization capital into the future. To capture the dynamically changing nature of an industry, we first compute firm-level standard deviations of (seasonally-adjusted) quarterly asset growth rates using eight quarters of data within that industry, and then take the industry-median of those firm-level standard deviations.

Mitchell and Mulherin (1996) and Harford (2005) show that fast changing industries are more likely to have merger waves, which might have implications for deal performance within those waves. As a result, we need to remove the merger wave effect in our measure of industry-level growth uncertainty. To do so, we first sum up merger deals announced at the two-digit SIC level based on acquirer industry affiliation for each year over the period 1980-2012. We similarly sum up merger deals announced at the two-digit SIC level based on target industry affiliation for each year over the same period. Then for each two-digit SIC industry, we run a time series regression of the industry-median standard deviation of asset growth rates on the natural logarithm of one plus the deal count for that industry based on acquirers' industry and the natural logarithm of one plus the deal count for that industry based on target firms' industry. The residual from this regression is the instrumental variable. We expect this annual industry-level instrumental variable controlling for merger waves to capture a firm's incentive to invest in organization capital—the demand for organization capital—while having nothing to do with deal performance. Table 8 Panel A presents the instrumental variable regression results.

Column (1) presents the first-stage regression results where we regress acquirer organization capital on the instrument, (residual) industry-median standard deviation of asset growth rates, and a set of other firm and deal characteristics to obtain the fitted value of organization capital. Consistent with our conjecture, we show that the instrument has the expected sign and is significantly correlated with acquirer organization capital (at the 1% level): Greater industry-level growth uncertainty reduces acquirers' investment in organization capital.

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¹² Capturing the industry-level merger waves using the sum of deal counts by acquirers' industry affiliation and target firms' industry affiliation does not change our main findings.

Columns (2)-(6) present the second-stage regression results where we regress different deal performance measures on the fitted value for acquirer organization capital, and the same set of control variables as used in the first stage.¹³ We show that the instrumented measure of acquirer organization capital is positively and significantly associated with most of the deal performance measures (with the exception of acquirer announcement period abnormal returns).

In summary, our instrumental variable approach helps address the concerns of omitted variables that drive both acquirers to have more organization capital and deals to be better and reverse causality by showing that there is a systematic correlation between the exogenous component of acquirer organization capital and deal performance.

To further mitigate the concern of reverse causality and help establish causal relationship between acquirer organization capital and deal performance, we also use the stock of organization capital lagged by three years to explain subsequent deal performance. (Missing values of the three-year lagged organization capital variable are replaced with zeros). Table 8 Panel B presents the results. We show that acquirer organization capital measured three years ago are positively associated with all deal performance measures, and the positive associations are significant for three long-run deal performance measures.

To conclude, after our multi-pronged approaches to addressing endogeneity concerns and to establishing causality, we conclude that there is a likely causal relation between pre-acquisition acquirer organization capital and deal performance. As mentioned earlier, Lev and Radhakrishnan (2005), Lev, Radhakrishnan, and Zhang (2009), and Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013) find that a firm's organization capital is positively correlated with its valuation and operating and stock performance. We contribute to this strand of literature by identifying one mechanism—corporate

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¹³ Given that the two-stage estimator is biased and inefficient but consistent (see Wooldridge (2006)), it is not surprising to see that the coefficient estimate on organization capital is much larger than but with similar levels of significance as the coefficient estimate on the un-instrumented organization capital in Table 2. It is more important to compare any significant changes in sign on those coefficient estimates with versus without instrumentation.

acquisitions—through which organization capital contributes to firm value and performance.

7. Conclusions

Using a large and comprehensive sample of completed U.S. merger and acquisition transactions over the period 1984-2011, we uncover one important source of value creation—acquirer organization capital as measured by capitalized selling, general, and administrative expenditures. We find that acquirers with more organization capital achieve significantly higher abnormal announcement period returns, and better post-merger operating and stock performance than acquirers with less organization capital. Post-merger, high organization-capital acquirers cut more R&D expenditures and capital expenditures, improve more on gross profit margin, and reduce more leverage than do low organization-capital acquirers. We further find that the effect of acquirer organization capital on deal performance is stronger when the acquirer has a high status or is a serial acquirer. Our main findings are robust to different measures of organization capital and endogeneity concerns. We conclude that organization capital is one important means to realize merger gains.

Since a firm's organization capital relates to its operating capabilities, investment capabilities, and innovation capabilities (Evenson and Westphal (1995)), future research is called for to examine whether and how acquirer organization capital interacts with other mechanisms such as product market competition and corporate governance practices in determining takeover outcomes. It would also be interesting to explore the relation between organization capital and the timing and magnitude of merger waves.

Appendix:

Table A1 Organization capital and firm characteristics

We compute organization capital (OC) for each firm in the Compustat universe and then sort firms into organization capital quartiles every year during our sample period 1984-2011. Panel A compares firm characteristics between firms in the top and bottom organization capital quartiles and reports the two-sample t-test and Wilcoxon ranksum test statistics (in p-values). Panel B presents pairwise correlations between organization capital and firm characteristics, with superscripts a, b, and c corresponding to statistical significance at the 1,5, and 10 percent levels, respectively. Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles each year. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars.

Panel A: Organization capital and firm characteristics

	To	op OC Quar	tile	Во	ttom OC Q			
	Mean	Median	StdDev	Mean	Median	StdDev		Wilcoxon
							t-test	test
ROA	-16.464	0.767	40.023	-2.222	1.083	18.883	0.000	0.000
ROS	-55.411	0.588	213.999	-37.801	7.804	215.482	0.000	0.000
ΔROA	2.744	0.394	25.812	-0.908	-0.028	13.187	0.000	0.000
ΔROS	6.421	0.341	83.653	0.029	-0.028	80.571	0.000	0.000
GPM	34.417	40.733	70.750	11.160	34.457	114.900	0.000	0.000
ΔGPM	0.022	0.104	23.853	-0.589	0.052	34.009	0.007	0.026
Firm size	4.091	3.869	1.940	6.746	6.770	2.180	0.000	0.000
Total assets	563.590	47.887	2,699.413	5719.519	871.504	12,756.190	0.000	0.000
Sales growth	13.625	4.961	63.527	26.779	10.168	72.360	0.000	0.000
M/B	3.808	2.008	4.973	2.179	1.501	2.676	0.000	0.000
Cash holdings	0.201	0.118	0.216	0.127	0.050	0.196	0.000	0.000
Leverage	0.182	0.091	0.220	0.375	0.375	0.271	0.000	0.000

Panel B: Pairwise correlations

								Firm	Sales	Cash		
	OC	ROA	ROS	ΔROA	ΔROS	GPM	ΔGPM	size	growth	M/B	holdings	Leverage
OC	1											
ROA	-0.368ª	1										
ROS	-0.092ª	0.583a	1									
ΔROA	0.179^{a}	-0.461ª	-0.133ª	1								
ΔROS	0.050^{a}	-0.257ª	-0.404ª	0.357^{a}	1							
GPM	0.094^{a}	0.368^{a}	0.765^{a}	-0.032 ^a	-0.236 ^a	1						
ΔGPM	0.008^{b}	-0.082a	-0.150 ^a	0.191^{a}	0.603^{a}	-0.211 ^a	1					
Firm size	-0.553ª	0.432^{a}	0.259^{a}	-0.100 ^a	-0.057 ^a	0.159^{a}	0.002	1				
Sales growth	-0.099 ^a	-0.092a	-0.101 ^a	-0.068 ^a	0.014^{a}	-0.051 ^a	-0.005°	-0.120 ^a	1			
M/B	0.229^{a}	-0.375 ^a	-0.253 ^a	0.100^{a}	0.094^{a}	-0.142 ^a	0.025^{a}	-0.264 ^a	0.200^{a}	1		
Cash holdings	0.114^{a}	-0.263ª	-0.329 ^a	-0.042 ^a	0.076^{a}	-0.245 ^a	$0.007^{\rm b}$	-0.290 ^a	0.152^{a}	0.231a	1	
Leverage	-0.293ª	0.144ª	0.160 ^a	0.010^{b}	-0.036ª	0.107 ^a	0.004	0.405 ^a	-0.115 ^a	-0.286ª	-0.455a	1

Table A2 Variable definitions

Variable	Definition
OC	Organization capital scaled by total assets, constructed using SG&A expenditures and
	the perpetual inventory method following Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013). For a
	firm in Compustat, starting from the first year with non-missing SG&A expenditures,
	we recursively construct the stock of organization capital by cumulating the
	CPI-deflated value of SG&A expenditures using a depreciation rate of 15%. The
	initial stock of organization capital is calculated with a 10% real growth rate of SG&A
	expenditures.
CAR(-1, 1)	Cumulative abnormal return (in percentage points) of the acquirer from one day
	before to one day after the deal announcement date. Abnormal return is calculated by
	subtracting the CRSP value-weighted market return from the stock return of the
	acquirer.
ΔROA1	Return on assets (in percentage points) of the acquirer in year $c+1$ minus return on
	assets of the acquirer in year a -1. Year c is the year of deal completion. Year a is the
	year of deal announcement. To compute the variable, the acquirer must not complete
	any confounding deal with transaction value greater than 1% of the acquirer's total
	assets within the one year after deal completion.
BHAR1(3)	One-year (three-year) buy-and-hold abnormal stock return (in percentage points) of
	the acquirer after deal completion constructed following Lyon, Barber, and Tsai
	(1999) and Chen, Harford and Li (2007). Specifically, we first sort the
	NYSE/NASDAQ/AMEX firms each month into NYSE size deciles and then further
	partition the bottom decile into quintiles, producing 14 total size groups. We
	simultaneously sort firms into book-to-market (B/M) deciles. After determining which
	of the 140 (14 size \times 10 B/M) groups the acquirer is in at the month-end prior to deal
	completion, we choose from that group the control firm that is the closest match on
	prior year stock return and is not involved in any significant acquisition activity in the
	prior year (three years). One-year (three-year) buy-and-hold return (starting from the
	month after deal completion) is then calculated for the acquirer and the control firm.
	Finally, the one-year (three-year) buy-and-hold abnormal return is the difference
	between the acquirer return and the corresponding contemporaneous control firm
	return. To compute the variable, the acquirer must not complete any confounding deal
	with transaction value greater than 1% of the acquirer's total assets within the one year
	(three years) after deal completion.
ΔROA3	Average return on assets (in percentage points) of the acquirer from year $c+1$ to year
	c+3 minus return on assets of the acquirer in year $a-1$. To compute the variable, the
	acquirer must not complete any confounding deal with transaction value greater than
	1% of the acquirer's total assets within the three years after deal completion.
ROA	Income before extraordinary items scaled by total assets (in percentage points).
ROS	Income before extraordinary items scaled by sales (in percentage points).
Gross profit margin (GPM)	The difference between sales and cost of goods sold scaled by sales (in percentage
G0.GG	points).
COGS	Cost of goods sold scaled by sales (in percentage points).
Sales growth	(Sales in year $t+1$ – Sales in year t)/Sales in year t .
M/B	Market value of equity divided by book value of equity.
Cash holdings	Cash and cash equivalent scaled by total assets.
Leverage	Book value of debt divided by the sum of book value of debt and market value of
Doot not your	equity.
Past return	Buy-and-hold stock return (in percentage points) in the year prior to deal
Tan 5 in atitati	announcement.
Top5 institutions	The fraction of shares outstanding held by the five largest institutional investors prior to
Eirm giza	deal announcement.
Firm size	Natural logarithm of total assets.

All cash An indicator variable that takes a value of one if the bid involves only cash payment to

the target shareholders, and zero otherwise.

All stock An indicator variable that takes a value of one if the bid involves only stock swap with

the target shareholders, and zero otherwise.

Diversifying An indicator variable that takes a value of one if the acquirer is not from the same

two-digit SIC industry as the target firm, and zero otherwise

Tender offer An indicator variable that takes a value of one if the bid is a tender offer made to the

target shareholders, and zero otherwise

Relative size The ratio of deal transaction value to the acquirer's total assets.

Private target An indicator variable that takes a value of one if the target firm is privately held, and

zero otherwise.

Subsidiary target An indicator variable that takes a value of one if the target firm is a subsidiary, and

zero otherwise.

Ind.-adj. OC (Organization capital – the two-digit SIC industry-median organization capital) scaled

by total assets.

OC rank

The annual decile rank of a firm's organization capital based on the Compustat

universe.

Ind.-adj. OC rank

The annual decile rank of a firm's industry-median adjusted organization capital based

on the Compustat universe.

OC 5yr straight Organization capital scaled by total assets, constructed by capitalizing SG&A

expenditures using a five-year straight line depreciation method. Salvage value is set to zero. The beginning value of organization capital before IPO is assumed to be zero.

OC flow SG&A expenditures scaled by total assets.

OC lag3 Organization capital scaled by total assets, lagged by three years.

Equity-based pay

The sum of restricted stock grants and options awards scaled by total compensation,

averaged across top-five executives.

Board independence The fraction of independent directors on a corporate board.

E-index Based on Bebchuk, Cohen, and Ferrell (2009). The E-index assigns each firm one point for each of the following six provisions in the index that the firm has: staggered

board, limits to amend bylaws, limits to amend charter, supermajority voting, golden

parachutes, and poison pill.

Industry growth uncertainty For each two-digit SIC industry, the residual of a time-series regression of annual

industry-median standard deviation of asset growth (calculated using the standard deviation of past eight-quarters' seasonally-adjusted asset growth rates) on the natural logarithm of one plus the SDC deal count in that industry based on the acquirer industry affiliation and the natural logarithm of one plus the SDC deal count in that industry based on the target firm's industry affiliation, using data from 1980 to 2012.

Acquirer An indicator variable that takes a value of one if the firm is an acquirer, and zero

otherwise.

Target firm An indicator variable that takes a value of one if the firm is a target firm, and zero

otherwise.

Managerial ability score Based on Demerjian, Lev, and McVay (2012). Using data envelopment analysis that

includes one output—sales and seven inputs—net property, plant, and equipment, net operating leases, net R&D, purchased goodwill, other intangible assets, cost of inventory, and SG&A expenditures, the measure captures managers' efficiency in

generating revenues.

Fortune's best company The reverse rank of a firm on the Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For in

America" list, and zero if a firm is not ranked. Fortune compiles the ranking based on the following methodology (Edmans (2011)). Two-thirds of the score comes from employee responses to a 57-question survey created by the Great Place to Works Institute in San Francisco, which covers topics such as attitudes toward management, job satisfaction, fairness, and camaraderie. The remaining one-third of the score comes from the Institute's evaluation of factors such as a firm's demographic makeup, pay and benefits programs, and culture. The final score covers four areas: credibility (communication to employees), respect (opportunities and benefits), fairness (compensation, diversity), and pride/camaraderie (teamwork, philanthropy,

celebrations).

Computerworld's best place in IT The reverse rank of a firm on the Computerworld's "Best Places to Work For in IT" list, and zero if a firm is not ranked. Computerworld compiles the ranking based on the following methodology. The first component is a 66-question survey asking about average salary and bonus increases, percentage of IT staffers promoted, IT staff turnover rates, training and development, and the percentage of women and minorities in IT staff and management positions. The second component is information on retention efforts; programs for recognizing and rewarding outstanding performance; benefits such as flextime, elder care and child care; and policies for reimbursing employees for college tuition and the cost of pursuing technology certifications. The third component is feedback from employees including their satisfaction with training and development programs, compensation, benefits and work/life balance, employee morale in their IT departments, and the importance of various benefits. See details at (http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9239821/How we chose the Best Places to Work in IT) Acquirer status The residual of a regression of the number of analysts following on firm size decile rank and ROA decile rank using the I/B/E/S database, following Shen, Tang, and Chen (2013).	-	
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Acquirer status The residual of a regression of the number of analysts following on firm size decile rank and ROA decile rank using the I/B/E/S database, following Shen, Tang, and Chen (2013).		morale in their IT departments, and the importance of various benefits. See details at
Acquirer status The residual of a regression of the number of analysts following on firm size decile rank and ROA decile rank using the I/B/E/S database, following Shen, Tang, and Chen (2013).		(http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9239821/How we chose the Best Places
rank and ROA decile rank using the I/B/E/S database, following Shen, Tang, and Chen (2013).		to Work in IT)
Chen (2013).	Acquirer status	The residual of a regression of the number of analysts following on firm size decile
		rank and ROA decile rank using the I/B/E/S database, following Shen, Tang, and
		Chen (2013).
Serial acquirer An indicator variable that takes the value of one if an acquirer has done at least five	Serial acquirer	An indicator variable that takes the value of one if an acquirer has done at least five
deals over any three-year period during our sample period 1984-2011, and zero	_	deals over any three-year period during our sample period 1984-2011, and zero
otherwise, following Fuller, Netter, and Stegemoller (2002).		otherwise, following Fuller, Netter, and Stegemoller (2002).

Table A3
Validity tests of our organization capital measure

Panel A presents OLS regression results using the Compustat universe where the dependent variables are different measures of firm quality: the managerial ability score rank of Demerjian, Lev, and McVay (2012), the Fortune's best company list, and the Computerworld's best place in IT list. Panels B-D presents regression results based on the same specification as in Table 2 but replaces OC with these alternative measures of firm quality. Two-digit SIC industry and year fixed effects are included. Definitions of the variables are provided in Table A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. Heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level. ***, **, * denote statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively.

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Panel A: Correlations	,,, (,,,,	gannzanon	Саппа	VV I LI I	various	III III UU	antiv incasures

		Fortune's	Computerworld's
Dependent	Managerial ability score	best company	best place in IT
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)
OC	0.004***	0.110***	0.123***
	(0.001)	(0.019)	(0.028)
Firm size	0.006***	0.286***	0.306***
	(0.001)	(0.045)	(0.057)
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	96,992	60,342	10,738
R^2	0.002	0.013	0.014

Panel B: Managerial ability score and deal performance

- C	•	L			
Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Managerial ability score	-0.124	2.515***	0.576	1.981**	-8.507
	(0.268)	(0.900)	(3.172)	(0.841)	(8.405)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	14,593	7,300	7,300	3,784	3,784
R^2	0.050	0.153	0.020	0.281	0.027

Panel C: Fortune's best company and deal performance

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Fortune's best	0.010	0.087***	-0.035	0.068**	0.022
company	(0.010)	(0.022)	(0.142)	(0.030)	(0.276)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	8,024	4,261	4,261	2,105	2,105
R^2	0.056	0.186	0.030	0.325	0.043

Panel D: Computerworld's best place in IT and deal performance

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	$\Delta ROA1$	BHAR1	$\Delta ROA3$	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Computerworld's	0.004	0.000	0.237*	0.029	-0.108
best place in IT	(0.012)	(0.032)	(0.137)	(0.035)	(0.252)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	4,190	2,372	2,372	1,084	1,084
\mathbb{R}^2	0.071	0.164	0.043	0.295	0.070

Table A4
Controlling for corporate governance practices

Panels A-C conduct robustness checks by adding different corporate governance controls to the regression specification in Table 2. Two-digit SIC industry and year fixed effects are included. Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. Heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the acquirer level. ***, **, * correspond to statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively.

Panel A: Controlling for executive equity-based pay

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
OC	-0.010	0.816**	3.109**	1.401***	14.349***
	(0.124)	(0.387)	(1.332)	(0.352)	(3.605)
Equity-based pay	0.395	-1.404	-12.508**	-4.003***	-9.624
	(0.438)	(1.477)	(5.912)	(1.444)	(14.703)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	6,410	3,087	3,087	1,486	1,486
R^2	0.067	0.223	0.042	0.331	0.068

Panel B: Controlling for board independence

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	$\Delta ROA1$	BHAR1	$\Delta ROA3$	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
OC	0.509***	0.491	3.356*	1.524***	7.083
	(0.190)	(0.544)	(1.754)	(0.456)	(4.522)
Board independence	-0.500	-3.820*	-13.797	-3.755*	-4.612
	(0.798)	(2.151)	(9.593)	(2.011)	(23.908)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	2,786	1,391	1,391	809	809
R ²	0.081	0.282	0.066	0.355	0.116

Panel C: Controlling for the E-index

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	$\Delta ROA1$	BHAR1	$\Delta ROA3$	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
OC	0.068	0.162	4.391***	0.758**	13.561***
	(0.149)	(0.471)	(1.522)	(0.334)	(3.828)
E-index	-0.115	0.173	-0.473	0.016	-1.566
	(0.087)	(0.200)	(0.993)	(0.226)	(2.665)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	4,098	2,159	2,159	1,211	1,211
R^2	0.076	0.211	0.052	0.365	0.091

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Table 1

Summary statistics

The sample consists of 17,141 completed M&A transactions between 1984 and 2011 from the Thompson One Banker SDC database. The sample selection criteria are as follows: 1) the deal is classified as "Acquisition of Assets (AA)", "Acquisition of Majority Interest (AM)," or "Merger (M)" by the data provider; 2) the acquirer is a U.S. public firm listed on the AMEX, NYSE, or NASDAQ; 3) the acquirer holds less than 50% of the shares of the target firm before deal announcement and intends to purchase at least 50% of the shares of the target firm through the deal; 4) the deal value is at least \$1 million (in 1983 dollar value); 5) the relative size of the deal (i.e., the ratio of transaction value over book value of acquirer total assets) is at least 1%; 6) the target firm is domiciled in the U.S.; 7) the target firm is a public firm, a private firm, or a subsidiary; and 8) basic financial and stock return information is available for the acquirer. Panel A presents the distribution of the sample. Panel B presents descriptive statistics of the variables. Panel C presents pairwise correlations of the variables, with superscripts a, b, and c corresponding to statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively. Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars.

Panel A: Sample distribution

Year	All Deals	Private Target	Subsidiary Target	Public Target
1984	372	148	137	87
1985	208	42	72	94
1986	275	89	99	87
1987	237	77	79	81
1988	262	78	99	85
1989	291	98	131	62
1990	270	103	120	47
1991	297	141	99	57
1992	458	226	173	59
1993	585	284	220	81
1994	814	417	238	159
1995	896	443	264	189
1996	1,115	584	318	213
1997	1,470	799	376	295
1998	1,408	737	370	301
1999	1,090	597	256	237
2000	1,014	583	211	220
2001	654	309	180	165
2002	621	290	212	119
2003	614	288	191	135
2004	694	377	185	132
2005	679	369	180	130
2006	687	387	183	117
2007	672	391	161	120
2008	441	255	117	69
2009	290	143	83	64
2010	379	189	114	76
2011	348	202	105	41
Total	17,141	8,646	4,973	3,522

Panel B: Descriptive statistics

	01	3.6	10 th	3.6.11	90 th	C. ID
	Obs	Mean	Percentile	Median	Percentile	StdDev
CAR(-1, 1)	17,141	1.421	-6.556	0.617	10.288	7.868
$\Delta ROA1$	8,645	-4.844	-18.326	-0.957	6.067	19.921
BHAR1	8,645	-8.173	-79.456	-6.693	62.151	66.032
$\Delta ROA3$	4,524	-4.709	-18.662	-2.063	4.546	14.760
BHAR3	4,524	-19.881	-149.459	-16.118	106.180	122.756
OC	17,141	1.097	0.094	0.811	2.395	1.088
ROA	17,141	1.594	-9.492	4.071	12.362	14.338
M/B	17,141	3.755	1.079	2.429	7.217	4.328
Leverage	17,141	0.190	0.000	0.129	0.492	0.201
Past return	17,141	36.120	-33.634	18.750	116.620	80.413
Top5 institutions	17,141	0.208	0.045	0.200	0.362	0.126
Total assets	17,141	2,892.227	29.539	314.151	4,361.816	20,398.850
All cash	17,141	0.256	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.436
All stock	17,141	0.214	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.410
Diversifying	17,141	0.386	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.487
Tender offer	17,141	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.189
Relative size	17,141	0.398	0.020	0.117	0.821	1.704
Private target	17,141	0.504	0.000	1.000	1.000	0.500
Subsidiary target	17,141	0.290	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.454

Panel C: Pairwise correlations

	CAR (-1,1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3	OC	ROA	M/B	Leverage	Past return	Top5 inst.	Firm size	All cash	All stock	Diversify- ing	Tender offer	Rel. size	Priv. target	Sub. target
CAR(-1, 1)	1.000														<u>. </u>			8	
$\Delta ROA1$	0.043^{a}	1.000																	
BHAR1	-0.022 ^b	0.171 ^a	1.000																
$\Delta ROA3$	0.044^{a}	0.779 a	0.140^{a}	1.000															
BHAR3	-0.029 ^b	0.137^{a}	0.522^{a}	0.191^{a}	1.000														
OC	0.079^{a}	0.002	0.033^{a}	0.050^{a}	0.020	1.000													
ROA	-0.061 ^a	-0.188^{a}	0.034^{a}	-0.419 ^a	0.024	-0.177 ^a	1.000												
M/B	-0.006	-0.153 ^a	-0.036 ^a	-0.121 ^a	-0.020	0.094^{a}	-0.112 ^a	1.000											
Leverage	0.003	0.140^{a}	0.027^{a}	0.173^{a}	0.026^{c}	-0.277ª	-0.039a	-0.245a	1.000										
Past return	0.010	-0.109 ^a	-0.033ª	-0.149 ^a	-0.016	-0.034^{a}	0.071^{a}	0.354^{a}	-0.132 ^a	1.000									
Top5 inst.	-0.054ª	0.035^{a}	0.015	-0.008	-0.008	-0.022a	0.161^{a}	-0.037 ^a	-0.043 ^a	-0.038 ^a	1.000								
Firm size	-0.171 ^a	0.113^{a}	0.034^{a}	0.098^{a}	0.059^{a}	-0.341ª	0.249^{a}	-0.084ª	0.278^{a}	-0.064^{a}	0.246^{a}	1.000							
All cash	0.005	0.032^{a}	0.019^{c}	0.009	0.012	0.007	0.121^{a}	-0.064ª	-0.036^{a}	-0.056^{a}	0.145^{a}	0.153^{a}	1.000						
All stock	-0.046^{a}	-0.071 ^a	-0.037 ^a	-0.025°	0.013	-0.028^{a}	-0.118 ^a	0.170^{a}	-0.045 ^a	0.109^{a}	-0.139 ^a	-0.005	-0.307^{a}	1.000					
Diversifying	0.012	-0.016	-0.008	-0.039^{a}	-0.030 ^b	0.087^{a}	0.011	-0.002	-0.051 ^a	-0.013 ^c	-0.047 ^a	-0.053 ^a	0.014^{c}	-0.042a	1.000				
Tender offer	-0.027^{a}	0.021 ^c	0.015	0.022	-0.019	0.027^{a}	0.047^{a}	-0.030 ^a	0.015^{b}	-0.029^{a}	0.012	0.137^{a}	0.183^{a}	-0.087ª	0.044^{a}	1.000			
Rel. size	0.041^{a}	-0.062^{a}	-0.026 ^b	-0.028°	-0.001	0.088^{a}	-0.128a	0.144^{a}	-0.075ª	0.068^{a}	-0.073ª	-0.172a	-0.062a	0.102^{a}	0.005	0.004	1.000		
Priv. target	0.055^{a}	-0.068 ^a	-0.026 ^b	-0.085a	-0.022	0.085^{a}	-0.046 ^a	0.084^{a}	-0.188^{a}	0.069^{a}	-0.014 ^c	-0.281ª	-0.101 ^a	0.016^{b}	0.040^{a}	-0.186ª	-0.030^{a}	1.000	
Sub. target	0.072^{a}	0.048^{a}	0.016	0.053^{a}	-0.008	-0.007	0.037^{a}	-0.056 ^a	0.079^{a}	-0.044 ^a	0.060^{a}	0.023	0.119^{a}	-0.243 ^a	0.007	-0.120 ^a	-0.023 ^a	-0.645 ^a	1.000

Table 2
Acquirer organization capital and deal performance

The sample consists of 17,141 completed M&A transactions between 1984 and 2011 from the Thompson One Banker SDC database. This table reports the baseline regression results using Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou's (2013) organization capital (OC) measure. Two-digit SIC industry and year fixed effects are included. Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. Heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the acquirer level. ***, **, * correspond to statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively.

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
OC	0.246***	1.092***	3.749***	1.493***	8.094***
	(0.085)	(0.335)	(0.909)	(0.298)	(2.382)
ROA	-0.010	-0.376***	0.165**	-0.547***	0.262
	(0.007)	(0.032)	(0.080)	(0.031)	(0.195)
M/B	-0.030	-0.426***	-0.177	-0.362***	-0.575
	(0.021)	(0.101)	(0.246)	(0.088)	(0.529)
Leverage	2.555***	2.840**	6.670	1.715	1.152
	(0.409)	(1.163)	(4.759)	(1.184)	(13.023)
Past return	0.002	-0.005	-0.021*	-0.011**	-0.019
	(0.001)	(0.005)	(0.013)	(0.005)	(0.031)
Top5 institutions	-2.427***	7.759***	5.989	4.032**	-19.753
	(0.567)	(1.795)	(6.807)	(1.605)	(17.208)
Firm size	-0.234***	0.625***	0.268	0.623***	1.609***
	(0.018)	(0.059)	(0.202)	(0.055)	(0.544)
All cash	0.389***	0.713*	0.046	0.831**	3.725
	(0.134)	(0.416)	(1.673)	(0.419)	(4.537)
All stock	0.030	-3.307***	-5.140**	-1.986***	2.483
	(0.198)	(0.766)	(2.272)	(0.718)	(5.590)
Diversifying	-0.207	-0.828*	-1.523	-0.740*	-5.492
	(0.138)	(0.458)	(1.563)	(0.424)	(4.079)
Tender offer	1.371***	0.375	0.998	0.355	-21.523**
	(0.319)	(0.756)	(3.811)	(0.721)	(10.095)
Relative size	0.116**	-0.271	-0.763	-0.124	0.824
	(0.059)	(0.332)	(0.617)	(0.294)	(1.204)
Private target	2.101***	0.368	-2.125	0.462	-5.854
	(0.190)	(0.650)	(2.161)	(0.613)	(5.617)
Subsidiary target	2.719***	0.545	-1.025	1.034*	-6.679
	(0.205)	(0.642)	(2.306)	(0.619)	(5.899)
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	8,645	8,645	4,524	4,524
R^2	0.058	0.155	0.023	0.297	0.030

Table 3
Alternative measures of acquirer organization capital and deal performance

The sample consists of 17,141 completed M&A transactions between 1984 and 2011 from the Thompson One Banker SDC database. This table conducts robustness checks by using alternative measures of OC and the same regression specification as in Table 2. For brevity, we only report the coefficient estimates on alternative measures of OC. Two-digit SIC industry and year fixed effects are included. Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. Heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the acquirer level. ***, ***, * correspond to statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively.

Panel A: Using industry-median adjusted OC

	3				
Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Indadj. OC	0.245***	0.878***	3.373***	1.359***	6.800***
	(0.087)	(0.334)	(0.928)	(0.301)	(2.468)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	8,645	8,645	4,524	4,524
\mathbb{R}^2	0.058	0.154	0.022	0.295	0.029

Panel B: Using decile rank of OC

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
OC rank	0.068*	1.066***	2.028***	0.953***	4.260***
	(0.037)	(0.141)	(0.433)	(0.135)	(1.084)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	8,645	8,645	4,524	4,524
R^2	0.058	0.161	0.023	0.301	0.030

Panel C: Using decile rank of industry-median adjusted OC

	,	3			
Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	$\Delta ROA1$	BHAR1	$\Delta ROA3$	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Indadj. OC rank	0.039*	0.558***	1.050***	0.535***	2.538***
	(0.023)	(0.083)	(0.267)	(0.076)	(0.706)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	8,645	8,645	4,524	4,524
R^2	0.058	0.159	0.022	0.299	0.030

Panel D: Using five-year straight line depreciation of SG&A expenditures to compute OC

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
OC 5yr straight line	0.441***	2.786***	8.291***	3.443***	18.441***
	(0.166)	(0.672)	(1.773)	(0.623)	(4.537)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	8,645	8,645	4,524	4,524
R^2	0.058	0.157	0.024	0.300	0.031

Panel E: Using SG&A expenditures to measure OC

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
OC flow	0.610	5.225***	15.463***	6.843***	49.657***
	(0.473)	(1.855)	(5.129)	(1.718)	(12.992)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	8,645	8,645	4,524	4,524
R^2	0.058	0.154	0.022	0.294	0.031

Table 4
Post-merger acquirer policy changes

The sample consists of 17,141 completed M&A transactions between 1984 and 2011 from the Thompson One Banker SDC database. This table examines post-merger acquirer policy changes. In Panel A, the dependent variables are computed as the level of a policy measure in the first year after deal completion minus the level of the same measure in the last year before deal announcement. In Panel B, the dependent variables are computed as the average level of a policy measure in the three years after deal completion minus the level of the same measure in the last year before deal announcement. For brevity, we only report the coefficient estimates on OC. The pre-acquisition policy measure, control variables (as in Table 2), two-digit SIC industry and year fixed effects are included but not reported. Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. Heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the acquirer level. ***, **, * correspond to statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively.

Panel A: Post-merger one-year changes in corporate policy

Dependent	ΔR&D1	ΔCAPEX1	ΔGPM1	Δ Leverage1
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
OC	-0.206***	-0.116**	0.794***	-0.010***
	(0.073)	(0.050)	(0.194)	(0.002)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	6,694	6,694	6,694	6,694
\mathbb{R}^2	0.081	0.392	0.171	0.181

Panel B: Post-merger three-year changes in corporate policy

Dependent	ΔR&D3	ΔСΑΡΕΧ3	ΔGPM3	ΔLeverage3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
OC	-0.290***	-0.077	0.926***	-0.014***
	(0.092)	(0.056)	(0.294)	(0.003)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	3,414	3,414	3,414	3,414
\mathbb{R}^2	0.111	0.548	0.215	0.237

Table 5
Organization capital, acquirer status, and serial acquirer

The sample consists of 17,141 completed M&A transactions between 1984 and 2011 from the Thompson One Banker SDC database. Panel A investigates the interaction effect of acquirer organization capital and acquirer status on deal performance by adding acquirer status and the interaction between OC and acquirer status to the regression specification in Table 2. Panel B investigates the interaction effect of acquirer organization capital and serial acquirer on deal performance by adding serial acquirer and the interaction between OC and serial acquirer to the regression specification in Table 2. For this investigation, we do not impose the requirement that the acquirer must not complete any confounding deal with transaction value greater than 1% of the acquirer's total assets within the one year after deal completion. Two-digit SIC industry and year fixed effects are included. Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. Heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the acquirer level. ***, **, * correspond to statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively.

Panel A: Organization capital and acquirer status

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
OC × Acquirer status	-0.004	0.127***	0.001	0.080***	0.004
	(0.011)	(0.036)	(0.001)	(0.029)	(0.003)
OC	0.246***	0.994***	0.037***	1.448***	0.078***
	(0.087)	(0.330)	(0.009)	(0.295)	(0.024)
Acquirer status	0.015	-0.165***	-0.003*	-0.094**	-0.004
	(0.016)	(0.058)	(0.002)	(0.044)	(0.005)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	8,645	8,645	4,524	4,524
\mathbb{R}^2	0.058	0.156	0.024	0.298	0.031

Panel B: Organization capital and serial acquirer

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)
OC × Serial acquirer	-0.003	1.220*	4.298**
	(0.172)	(0.667)	(1.909)
OC	0.267***	0.961***	3.220***
	(0.090)	(0.270)	(0.812)
Serial acquirer	0.046	0.066	4.950**
	(0.199)	(0.768)	(2.259)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	14,860	14,860
R ²	0.058	0.172	0.020

Table 6
Organization capital, making deals, and target firm characteristics

This table examines the role of organization capital in the likelihood of a firm becoming acquirer/target firm, and the role of acquirer organization capital in target selection. Panel A reports the results of probit regressions using the Compustat universe between 1984 and 2011. Panel B compares firm characteristics between public target firms taken over by acquirers of the top and bottom organization capital quartiles and reports the two-sample t-test and Wilcoxon ranksum test statistics (in p-values). Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. Heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the firm level in Panel A. ***, ***, * correspond to statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively.

Panel A: Organization capital and becoming acquirer/target firm

Dependent Variable	Acquirer	Target Firm
OC	-0.033***	0.004
	(0.005)	(0.006)
M/B	0.006***	-0.009***
	(0.001)	(0.002)
Sales growth	0.067***	-0.014*
	(0.005)	(0.007)
Past return	0.001***	0.000
	(0.000)	(0.000)
Leverage	-0.563***	-0.025
	(0.032)	(0.035)
Cash holdings	0.102***	0.175***
	(0.034)	(0.040)
Firm size	0.165***	0.026***
	(0.004)	(0.004)
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes
Constant	Yes	Yes
Obs	133,518	133,326
Pseudo R ²	0.086	0.034

Panel B: Target firm characteristics of high- versus low-OC acquirers

	Hig	High-OC Acquirers			Low-OC Acquirers			
	Mean	Median	StdDev	Mean	Median	StdDev		Wilcoxon
							t-test	test
Target OC	1.887	1.525	1.498	0.516	0.129	0.848	0.000	0.000
Firm size	5.155	4.941	1.621	6.647	6.559	1.812	0.000	0.000
Total assets	919.837	139.931	3,362.013	4,089.492	705.625	10,568.150	0.000	0.000
ROA	-4.493	2.922	22.927	0.219	1.055	11.694	0.000	0.001
ROS	-16.359	2.184	66.314	0.389	7.514	40.287	0.000	0.000
GPM	39.466	40.431	33.441	44.189	47.609	25.448	0.000	0.000
Past return	8.717	-3.038	66.593	19.629	12.583	55.996	0.000	0.000
Sales growth	24.343	10.820	60.567	24.925	11.015	56.957	0.773	0.475
M/B	1.945	1.467	1.453	1.494	1.086	1.141	0.000	0.000
Cash holdings	0.230	0.140	0.232	0.108	0.049	0.152	0.000	0.000
Leverage	0.168	0.089	0.196	0.355	0.346	0.257	0.000	0.000

Table 7 The difference-in-differences analysis

This table reports our investigation of the ex-post treatment effect of a merger deal on post-merger acquirer performance outcome. Panel A provides the steps taken to form the sample of control deals involving failed merger bids for reasons exogenous to acquirer or target firm organization capital. Panel B presents coefficient estimates from OLS regressions obtained using a panel dataset that has, for each deal in the treatment sample (i.e., completed deals) and the control sample (i.e., failed merger bids), observations running from three years prior to bid announcement, to three years after the deal completion/withdrawal. The dependent variable is either buy-and-hold stock return or ROA in each year. Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. Heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the acquirer level. ***, **, * correspond to statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively.

Panel A: Control sample construction

Withdrawn due to competing bids, regulatory objections, or adverse market conditions	387
The acquirer completed a deal in the same year with another target firm	
in the same industry as the target in the withdrawn deal	-59
Not enough years of observation surrounding the withdrawal or with ROA $<$ - 50%	-116
Matching on the acquirer industry (2-digit SIC)	-5
Matching on the target firm industry (2-digit SIC)	-17
Matching on pre-bid industry-adjusted three-year average ROA and buy-and-hold return terciles	-30
Final failed merger bid sample	160

Panel B: Explaining acquirer performance

	BHR	ROA	BHR	ROA
Dependent Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
OC	7.244**	0.948***	6.695	1.608
	(3.561)	(0.305)	(6.720)	(1.063)
Treat	4.153	0.425	-9.347	0.505
11000	(3.879)	(0.401)	(8.679)	(1.034)
After	-8.785**	-0.321	-8.887*	-0.837
11101	(3.560)	(0.463)	(5.184)	(0.653)
$OC \times Treat$	-5.863	-0.337	6.608	-1.076
oc mun	(3.665)	(0.328)	(7.580)	(1.071)
Treat × After	-8.472*	-0.546	-3.290	0.099
11000	(5.086)	(0.610)	(5.673)	(0.801)
OC × After	-4.275	-1.363***	-3.553	-1.357*
00 1110	(3.688)	(0.510)	(3.960)	(0.779)
$OC \times Treat \times After$	8.928*	1.498**	10.796**	1.512*
	(4.552)	(0.588)	(5.059)	(0.871)
ROA	0.272	0.507***	0.279	0.218***
	(0.201)	(0.039)	(0.315)	(0.048)
M/B	-1.487*	0.226*	-5.886***	0.111
	(0.767)	(0.116)	(1.172)	(0.219)
Leverage	22.892***	-2.426***	75.457***	-2.302
C	(8.250)	(0.832)	(14.132)	(1.674)
Past return	-0.047	0.008*	-0.083**	0.013***
	(0.030)	(0.004)	(0.036)	(0.005)
Top5 institutions	-0.102	-0.018	-0.282	-0.048
•	(0.113)	(0.014)	(0.229)	(0.029)
Firm size	-0.477	0.284***	-27.854***	-1.631***
	(0.754)	(0.106)	(5.278)	(0.593)
Industry FE	Yes	Yes	No	No
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	1,920	1,920	1,920	1,920
\mathbb{R}^2	0.189	0.485	0.375	0.621

Table 8

Addressing endogeneity

The sample consists of 17,141 completed M&A transactions between 1984 and 2011 from the Thompson One Banker SDC database. This table reports the results from addressing endogeneity concerns. Panel A reports the two-stage least squares (2SLS) regression results. The instrumental variable in the first stage is the asset growth uncertainty in an industry controlling for the merger wave effect. Two-digit SIC industry and year fixed effects are included. Panel B uses the three-year lagged measure of OC (i.e., OC lag3) and the same regression specifications as in Table 2. For brevity, we only report the coefficient estimate on OC lag3. Definitions of the variables are provided in Appendix A2. All continuous variables are winsorized at the 1st and 99th percentiles. All dollar values are in 2011 dollars. Heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (in parentheses) are clustered at the acquirer level. ***, **, * correspond to statistical significance at the 1, 5, and 10 percent levels, respectively.

Panel A: Two-stage least square regressions with the instrumental variable

Dependent Variable	OC	CAR(-1, 1)	$\Delta ROA1$	BHAR1	$\Delta ROA3$	BHAR3
-	1 st stage	2 nd stage				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
OC		0.337	10.678***	26.114**	8.861**	90.877**
		(0.975)	(3.261)	(12.881)	(3.538)	(37.851)
Instrumental Variable:						
Industry growth uncertainty	-2.652***					
	(0.371)					
ROA	-0.011***	-0.010	-0.193***	0.388***	-0.359***	1.144**
	(0.001)	(0.012)	(0.043)	(0.150)	(0.047)	(0.464)
M/B	0.008**	-0.034	-0.470***	-0.391	-0.468***	-2.080**
	(0.003)	(0.022)	(0.100)	(0.301)	(0.115)	(1.049)
Leverage	-0.561***	2.607***	8.578***	17.981**	6.888***	47.545*
	(0.063)	(0.668)	(2.033)	(8.001)	(2.249)	(24.916)
Past return	-0.001***	0.002	-0.001	-0.014	-0.011**	-0.015
	(0.000)	(0.001)	(0.005)	(0.014)	(0.005)	(0.041)
Top5 institutions	0.055	-2.375***	7.700***	6.566	5.623***	-3.798
	(0.095)	(0.565)	(1.947)	(7.167)	(1.979)	(20.734)
Firm size	-0.088***	-0.356***	1.594***	2.205**	1.253***	7.957***
	(0.006)	(0.089)	(0.287)	(1.122)	(0.248)	(2.703)
All cash	0.002	0.372***	0.679	0.195	0.669	1.757
	(0.018)	(0.133)	(0.446)	(1.750)	(0.470)	(5.222)
All stock	0.000	0.027	-2.897***	-5.195**	-1.440**	4.247
	(0.025)	(0.197)	(0.764)	(2.354)	(0.710)	(6.576)
Diversifying	0.053***	-0.209	-1.201**	-2.805	-0.925*	-9.283*
	(0.019)	(0.146)	(0.505)	(1.764)	(0.476)	(5.068)
Tender offer	0.094**	1.407***	-0.554	-0.709	-0.639	-30.665*
						*
	(0.042)	(0.332)	(0.917)	(4.115)	(1.000)	(12.287)
Relative size	0.011	0.111*	-0.349	-0.904	-0.365	-0.618
	(0.008)	(0.060)	(0.316)	(0.782)	(0.262)	(2.540)
Private target	-0.114***	2.140***	0.465	-1.111	0.135	-5.393
	(0.022)	(0.214)	(0.659)	(2.357)	(0.587)	(6.211)
Subsidiary target	-0.074***	2.754***	0.360	-0.780	0.721	-6.922
	(0.024)	(0.214)	(0.658)	(2.411)	(0.619)	(6.544)
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	17,141	8,645	8,645	4,524	4,524
\mathbb{R}^2	0.334	0.058	0.145	0.021	0.264	0.029

Panel B: Using the three-year lagged measure of OC

Dependent	CAR(-1, 1)	ΔROA1	BHAR1	ΔROA3	BHAR3
Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
OC lag3	0.024	0.385	1.470*	0.867***	6.216***
	(0.068)	(0.244)	(0.765)	(0.214)	(1.989)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry and year FEs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intercept	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs	17,141	8,645	8,645	4,524	4,524
\mathbb{R}^2	0.058	0.145	0.021	0.267	0.030