Program in Clinical Effectiveness (PCE) and Targeted Degree Programs: Information Session

October 27, 2026

Agenda

- Description and history of the PCE
- PCE schedule and courses
- Targeted degree programs for PCE students
- Student and alumni introductions
- Application process
- Questions and answers

Description and History of the PCE

What is the PCE?

- Six-week on-campus summer program for individuals seeking advanced training in clinical and population-based research, including healthcare professionals, clinical investigators, scientists, and other professionals engaged in health-related research and evaluation
  - **Dates for Summer 2027: July 7 – August 13, 2027**

- Provides essential training in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, as well as other relevant areas for designing, implementing, and interpreting research
- Can be completed as standalone certificate program or as beginning of degree program

History: 1986 - 2026

- 40 years!
- > 4600 graduates to date
- > 2000 returned for second summer
- Two targeted degree programs:
  - MPH in Clinical Effectiveness (MPH CLE)
  - Summer-focused Master of Science (SM) in Epidemiology

20th Anniversary Graduate Survey

- Performed in 2006/2007 by CLE alum, **Mary Ellen Goldhamer**
- 1,489 emails and letters sent
- 73% response rate

The Clinical Effectiveness Program was created in 1986.... It was designed to train physicians, initially from subspecialties of internal medicine… and from other medical specialties as well, in the quantitative analytic sciences that are necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of clinical practices.

Goldman et al. CLIN RES vol 38, no 4, pp 686-693, 1990

Protecting an endangered species: training physicians to conduct clinical research

Mary Ellen J Goldhamer [1], Amy P Cohen, David W Bates, E Francis Cook, Roger B Davis, Daniel E Singer, Steven R Simon

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 19318774 DOI: 10.1097/ACM.0b013e31819a7cb1

Abstract

Purpose: The Program in Clinical Effectiveness (PCE) at Harvard School of Public Health is a postgraduate program emphasizing clinical research. The authors sought to evaluate the research careers of physician graduates and to determine correlates of National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant funding.

Method: In 2006, all 1,489 graduates from 1986-2005 were sent a 48-item survey that collected information on demographics, program experience, chosen career path, grant awards, and research pursued postprogram. Reported NIH grants were verified on the NIH Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects Web site. Cox proportional hazard regression was used to determine participant and program features associated with NIH grant funding.

Results: Overall, 994 of the 1,365 located graduates (73%) responded to the survey. Graduates pursued research in the following areas: 437 respondents (44%) pursued clinical trials, 537 (54%) pursued epidemiology, and 408 (41%) pursued health services research. A total of 156 respondents (24%) were principal investigators on an NIH grant. Correlates of receiving NIH grant funding included age less than 40 years at time of program enrollment (hazard ratio [HR] 1.87, CI 1.03, 3.41), generalist status (HR 1.57, CI 1.14, 2.16), and publishing research begun as course projects (HR 1.65, CI 1.19, 2.31). Gender, academic status at enrollment, ethnicity, tuition sponsorship, and earning an advanced degree were not associated with receipt of NIH grant funding.

Conclusions: Physicians who enrolled in the PCE at an early age and generalist physicians were particularly successful in establishing careers as clinician-investigators. Programs such as the PCE can help to sustain the workforce of physician-investigators.

Survey Results

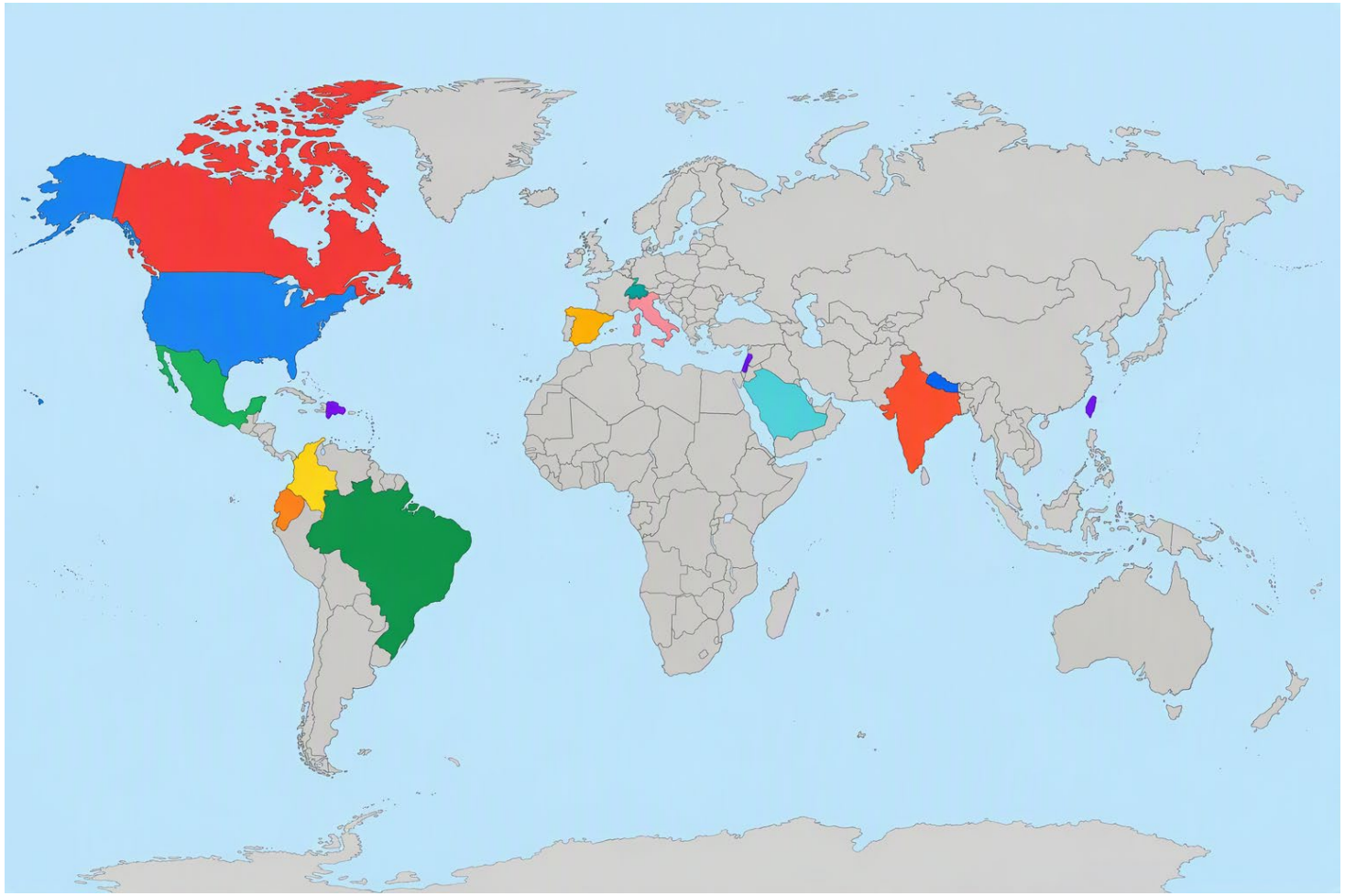
Leadership roles

- 6 Deans
- 31 Department Chairs
- 101 Division Chiefs
- 236 Residency Program Directors
- 193 Medical Directors
- 19 CEOs/CMOs
- 220 hold administrative positions

Impact of PCE

- **43%** received grant funding for EPI208 research project
- **64%** indicated publication of EPI208 research proposal
- **14%** received grant funding for class project from afternoon courses
- **30%** indicated publication of class project from afternoon elective courses

PCE Class of 2026



88
Students

14
Countries

27
MPH CLE Candidates

1
MS EPI Candidates

PCE Schedule and Courses

Overview of Schedule

	Summer 1 (3 weeks)	Summer 2 (3 weeks)
Morning core courses (8 am to 1 pm)	Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology (EPI 208) and Introductory Statistics for Medical Research (BST 206) – 10 credits total	
Afternoon electives (2-3:30 pm or 3:45-5:15 pm)	Choose one elective course – 2.5 credits each	Choose one elective course – 2.5 credits each

Total credits = 15 (one-third of MPH or SM degree)

Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology (EPI 208)

- Covers principles and methods used in traditional and clinical epidemiologic research

- Course structure
  - Lectures and interactive in-class activities, homework assignments, quiz, etc.
  - Individual project on topic of choice, to apply concepts that are being taught in class
    - Proposal for research study (written as mini-grant proposal)
    - Small group workshops/presentations, individual office hours with faculty, and final paper
    - More than 50 faculty involved
    - Many students use this proposal to launch their research

Introductory Statistics for Medical Research (BST 206)

- Covers
  - Principles: testing and confidence intervals
  - Presentation: graphics and summary statistics
  - Tests: parametric and non-parametric; two-sample, paired, ANOVA, time-to-event analysis, regression
  - Sample size and power calculations
  - Software: SAS, Stata, or R
- Integrated with EPI 208

2026 Afternoon Electives

Summer 1	Summer 2
Improvement in Quality of Health Care	Machine Learning in Healthcare
Implementation Research in Health and Healthcare	Effectiveness Research with Longitudinal Healthcare Databases
Medical Informatics	Applied Analysis of National Surveys for Health and Population Research
Improvement by Design: Using the Science of Design, Test, and Spread to Innovate and Improve Healthcare	Linear and Longitudinal Regression
Decision Analysis in Clinical Research	Health Care Delivery Reform in the US*
Economics for Health Policy*	Introduction to Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis Methods*

Electives are subject to change for 2027
** Summer Session course available to PCE students*

Targeted Degree Programs:
MPH in Clinical Effectiveness (MPH CLE) and Summer-focused Master of Science in Epidemiology (SM EPI)

MPH CLE Overview and Schedule

- Analytic and quantitative training necessary to evaluate the impact of clinical practices, decisions, and interventions
  - Areas of interest: clinical epidemiology and biostatistics, cost-effectiveness and decision analysis, health services research, quality improvement

- Schedule options:
  - Academic-year: full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years)
  - Summer-focused: 2-3 summers; some online courses in between summers
  - 45 credits total

MPH CLE Curriculum

- Core curriculum:
  - Introductory Statistics for Medical Research and Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology
  - Public health core: qualitative methods, health systems, leadership and communication, social determinants of health, public health policy and politics
  - Applied research/practicum project, culminating in a presentation and final paper

- Field of study: regression course plus 5 credits of “upper-level CLE” coursework
  - Examples: survival analysis methods, longitudinal analysis, decision analysis, epidemiologic methods in health services research, systematic review and meta-analysis

- Other elective courses

Summer-focused SM EPI Overview and Curriculum

- Research-focused Master of Science degree in epidemiology
  - Areas of interest include cancer, cardiovascular, clinical, infectious disease, nutrition, pharmaco-, and psychiatric epidemiology
  - No core public health courses required
  - 2-3 summers, with some online courses between summers; 42.5 credits total
- Required coursework: Introductory Statistics for Medical Research, Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology, Analytical Clinical Epidemiology, Study Design in Epidemiology, thesis
- Other elective courses

Student Introductions

PCE / MPH CLE Students

- Nellie Darling (PCE 2025, MPH CLE 2027)
- Virginia Zarama (PCE 2025, MPH CLE 2027)

Who Should Apply to the PCE?

- Individuals seeking advanced training in clinical and population-based research

- Eligible applicants must hold a master's, doctoral, or equivalent degree in a relevant field
  - Examples include MD, MBBS, MB Bch, DO, DDS, DMD, DNP, DVM, PharmD, PsyD, PhD, ScD, MS, MSN, MSW, and other advanced degrees

Degree Programs: How to Apply and Deadlines

Degree Application:

Degree Application Deadline: 12/1/2026

- Submit your MPH in Clinical Effectiveness application in **SOPHAS;** automatically considered for the PCE
  - Statement of purpose and objectives
  - Standardized test scores (optional)
  - Three letters of reference
  - Résumé/curriculum vitae
  - Post-secondary transcripts or mark sheets (World Education Services credential evaluation for applicants with degrees from outside of the United States)
  - English language proficiency test (TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo), if applicable
  - SOPHAS application fee
- For other degrees, must complete separate applications for degree program and the PCE

Apply at:
https://hsph.harvard.edu/fellowship-special-program/clinical-effectiveness/degree-option/

Non-Degree PCE: How to Apply and Deadlines

Application Process:

- Submit your application in **SOPHAS Express**
  - Statement of purpose and objectives
  - Two letters of reference
  - Curriculum Vitae
  - English proficiency test (TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo), if applicable
  - $65 application fee

Non-Degree Application Deadline: 2/15/2027

There is no financial aid available for non-degree programs.

Apply at:
https://hsph.harvard.edu/fellowship-special-program/clinical-effectiveness/non-degree-option/

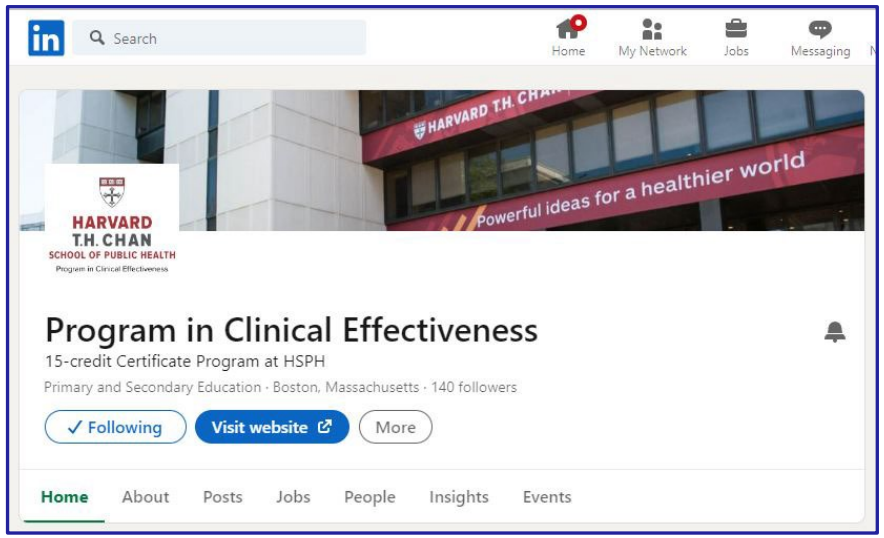
Websites and Contact Information

PCE:
https://hsph.harvard.edu/fellowship-special-program/clinical-effectiveness/

Tuition and Financial Aid Information:
https://hsph.harvard.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/

PCE Program	progclineffect@partners.org
MPH CLE Program	mph@hsph.harvard.edu
SM EPI Program	heat@hsph.harvard.edu
Admissions Office	admissions@hsph.harvard.edu
Registrar	registrar@hsph.harvard.edu
Financial Aid Office	financialaid@hsph.harvard.edu

Follow PCE on Social Media



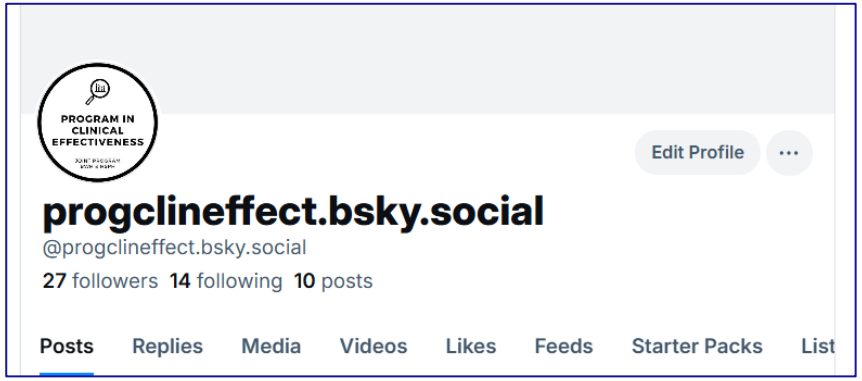
Program in Clinical Effectiveness





@progclineffect.bsky.social





@progclineffect



Mass General Brigham

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL TEACHING HOSPITAL

HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Questions?