



HARVARD
T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the CAUSALab 2025–2026 Annual Report. Inside, you will find highlights from our recent research, teaching, and outreach activities.

CAUSALab was founded in 2021, but our roots run deep. We build upon a legacy that began in 1986 when Professor James Robins ushered in a new era of causal inference with his landmark paper on complex longitudinal data. Following decades of groundbreaking methodological contributions at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, our investigators continue to drive this cutting-edge research forward today.

In a time of uncertainty for public health research, we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support as we investigate what works in medicine, public health, and policy.

Miguel Hernán

Director of CAUSALab

Kolokotrones Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology

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CAUSALab at a Glance

What We Do: CAUSALab generates, repurposes and analyzes health data so that key decision makers – regulators, clinicians, policy makers and you – can make more informed decisions. Our research at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health helps improve health outcomes for the treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease, cancer, infectious disease, mental health, pregnancy complications, and others.

15
Faculty

25
Researchers

6
Staff



Research Partners

CAUSALab is fortunate to partner with world class institutions, without whom our research would not be possible.



Boston Children's Hospital

Beth Israel Lahey Health
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Center
for Outcomes Research

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL



McLean HOSPITAL
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATE



School of Public Health



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Accessible Research

As pioneers in causal inference research, we are committed to transparent reporting and resource sharing that empowers investigators around the world.

Kolokotrones Symposium

CAUSALab held **2** symposia over the past year. The 20th Kolokotrones Symposium “Acetaminophen During Pregnancy and Autism: What Does Causal Inference Take?” was held November 14, 2025. The 21st Kolokotrones Symposium “External Controls for Causal Inference: Study Design and Analysis” was held April 3, 2026. Both events featured research collaborators and welcomed an engaged online and in-person audience at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



CAUSALab Clinics

CAUSALab Clinics is a free causal inference consulting service offered to early-career investigators in the Boston area.

In 2025-2026, we offered **7** sessions with selected junior researchers who conduct research on comparative effectiveness or safety of health and policy interventions. Participants received guidance on study design, data analysis, and results interpretation.



Methods Series

The CAUSALab Methods Series with Karolinska Institutet features seminars with a rotating lineup of experts. In 2025-2026, CAUSALab offered **14** seminars through the free Methods Series. Past presentation recordings are available to watch on CAUSALab's [YouTube page](#).



Actionable Causal Inference

Advanced methods have real world impact when they deliver actionable information. We not only talk the talk of causal inference; we also walk the walk.

Summer Courses

CAUSALab held another successful year of the annual Summer Courses on Causal Inference with four courses held on campus and online:

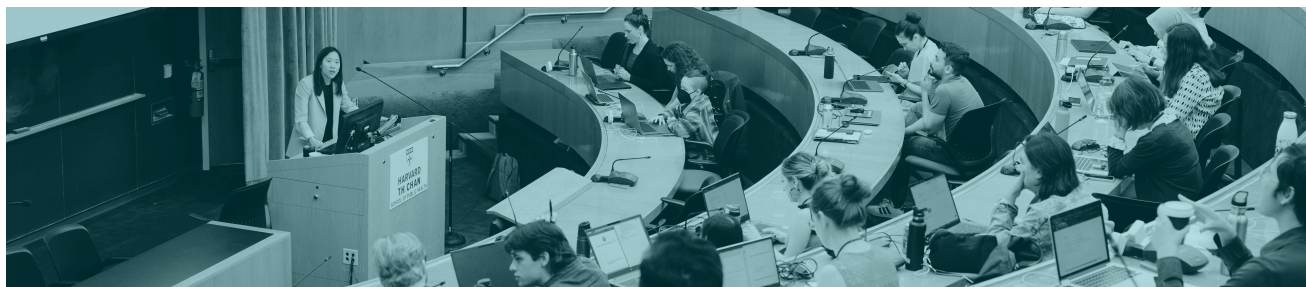
- Key Topics in Causal Inference (KTCI)
- Target Trial Emulation (TTE)
- Combining Information for Causal Inference (CICI)
- Advanced Confounding Adjustment (ACA)

In 2026, **330+** participants represented **48** countries, **30** U.S. states, and **180+** organizations spanning academia and industry. **47** tuition waivers were awarded to **28** PhD students.



Online Courses

2025 marked the debut of Fundamentals of Confounding Adjustment (FCA), our first course hosted asynchronously. In 2026, FCA welcomed 284 participants total. Future online courses are coming soon.



2025 Research Spotlight

PUBLICATION OVERVIEW

In 2025, CAUSALab's research spanned cancer, cardiovascular health, infectious disease, pregnancy, mental health, and more. Some highlighted publications follow. For a full list of publications, see [CAUSALab's website](#).

CANCER

- Target trial emulation for regulatory and clinical decision making in cancer, [Dickerman et al.](#)
- Evaluating recommendation-based dietary and physical activity strategies for prostate cancer prevention, [Guo et al.](#)
- Guideline-based physical activity and health-related quality of life among prostate cancer survivors, [Chen et al.](#)
- Effect of colonoscopy screening on risks of colorectal cancer and related death, [Shi et al.](#)
- Estimating the effects of lifestyle interventions on mortality among cancer survivors, [McGee et al.](#)
- Quantitative bias analysis for single-arm trials with external control arms, [Gupta et al.](#)

CARDIOVASCULAR

- Cardiovascular events in individuals treated with sulfonylureas or dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitors, [Turchin et al.](#)
- Mendelian randomization, lipids, and coronary artery disease, [Shi et al.](#)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- Time to direct-acting antiviral initiation and liver-related events in people with HIV and hepatitis C virus, [Chalouni et al.](#)
- Risk of hepatocellular carcinoma after direct-acting antiviral treatment for hepatitis C virus infection in people with HIV, [Van Santen et al.](#)

2025 Research Spotlight

PREGNANCY

- Accounting for twins and other multiple births in perinatal studies of live births conducted using healthcare administration data, [Brown et al.](#)
- Modern evidence generation on medication effectiveness and safety during pregnancy, [Huybrechts et al.](#)
- Use of antiseizure medications early in pregnancy and the risk of major malformations in the newborn, [Hernandez-Diaz et al.](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

- Comparative effectiveness of long-acting injectable versus oral antipsychotic medication after a first episode of psychosis, [Szmulewicz et al.](#)

METHODS

Target Trial Framework

- The target trial framework for causal inference from observational data, [Hernán et al.](#)
- Transparent Reporting of Observational Studies Emulating a Target Trial- the TARGET statement, [Cashin et al.](#)
- A structural description of biases that generate immortal time, [Hernán et al.](#)

Combining data for causal inference

- An approach for combining information to learn about a target population, [Ung et al.](#)
- Center-specific causal inference with multicenter trials, [Robertson et al.](#)
- Multi-source analyses of average treatment effects with failure time outcomes, [Wen et al.](#)



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