

Causal Inferences: Facilitating Health Decisions in the Face of Uncertainty



10TH ANNUAL • 2019

GoldLab
SYMPOSIUM

Friday, May 17–Saturday, May 18, 2019
University of Colorado Boulder



Welcome to our 10th Symposium

Each year my time gets shorter and shorter

This year I “gave” myself only 15 minutes....which is more than enough time to say a few things about...

The people who help us...financially and emotionally

Why healthcare matters...

What we are trying to do every year?

What our path forward might be?



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Jim & Patience Linfield

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Peter Thompson



Some Sponsor Attendees: They are Wearing Badges, so Please Thank Them...

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Individuals:

Jim & Patience Linfield
Jack & Jeannie Thompson



Healthcare Matters: Our Friend Adam



Adam Rubenstein
1970-2019



What We are Trying to Do Every Year

- Our idea was so simple, ten years ago: citizens can be wiser as we try to improve healthcare
- I congratulate – and thank – all of you for participating in a social experiment
- I hoped that you could grasp modern biology and help – politically, culturally, and scientifically
- We were determined to speak English (speakers beware!!!!) during these symposia
- Quote from Anton Chekhov #1: “ For God’s sake, have some self-respect and do not run off at the mouth if your brain is out to lunch.”



What Might our Path Forward Be?

- Our speakers are increasingly concerned with social issues (and next year John Kabat-Zinn will be here to speak about living with *mindfulness*) — a small ping pong story...
- Personalized medicine must be people-centric — we all say at SomaLogic that “our real task is to democratize healthcare” — only *people* can be democratized
- Quote from Anton Chekhov #2: ...the human condition includes “a dislike of life strangely combined with a fear of death.” [The Death of Ivan Ilyich...?]



Mission Definition...

- We must make it possible for those of you who are “GLS lifers” to help
 - Thus far we have failed to do that
 - Please reach out to us with your biggest ideas about how to grab what we have – 500 friends, determined to help people live better, longer, happier... - and create a movement rather than just this wonderful weekend
 - We have made too strong a start to aim LOW...



The Statistical Problem: *The Accidental Homo Sapiens* by Tattersall and DeSalle

- Imagine two Vikings of different genders landing on what we now call Iceland, versus ten billion people in the world in the near future (human evolution was tribal...)
- Two is different (genetically and behaviorally) from 10,000,000,000
- The Iceland population might have become different the next day...mutations among the offspring of founders have a chance to flourish
- That is not true for the world today...we are stable, genetically and behaviorally...

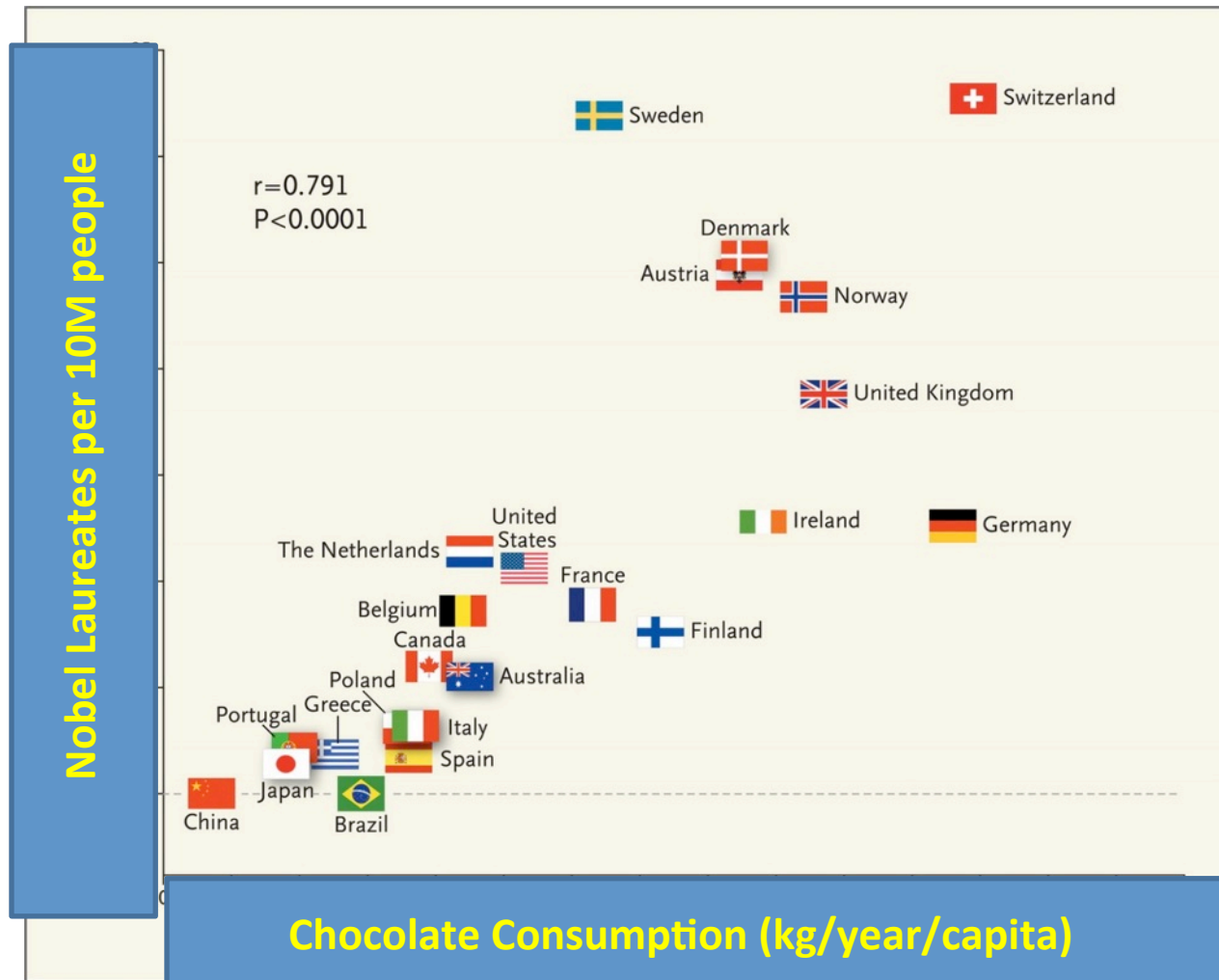


Sweeping Cultural Movement has Replaced Darwinian Selection

- Authoritarian leaders are possible because...
- The bell-shaped curve for any trait in a huge population is stable: Human pattern recognition and sociology are the new drivers
- False conclusions will be our problem – MAGA; we seize the possibilities for change
- *“Causal Inferences: Facilitating Health Decisions in the Face of Uncertainty”...we confuse correlation with causation as a piece of pattern recognition*



Correlation is NOT Causation (from Nebojsa



Thoughts of causation are so tempting!



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So Here We Go...Again...

I looked at this GLS lineup with great pleasure...

14 incredible scientists/biologists

7 incredible social thinkers

The total is more than our 16 speakers – some people serve two roles

And our moderators are also amazing, as are the attendees

This is a celebratory anniversary party – thanks again

