Causal Inferences: Facilitating Health Decisions in the Face of Uncertainty
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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And special thanks to our individual donors:
Jim & Patience Linfield
Jack & Jeannie Thompson
Peter Thompson
Some Sponsor Attendees: They are Wearing Badges, so Please Thank Them...

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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

Thoughts of causation are so tempting!
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