

Mid-Atlantic Causal Inference Conference  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
615 N Wolfe St. Baltimore, MD  
May 19 – 20, 2008

**Description:**

The overall objective of this workshop is to provide a forum for researchers in causal inference to discuss recent advances in methodology and their use in applied settings.

There are three specific objectives:

1. Facilitate an exchange of ideas between researchers across institutions;
2. Explore particular areas of current research: sensitivity analysis, causal inference in multilevel settings, and mediation analysis;
3. Examine a causal inference case study in detail--that of estimating the effects of hormone replacement therapy.

**Sponsored by:**

The Center for Prevention and Early Intervention, JHSPH\*

The Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence, JHSPH\*\*

Department of Biostatistics, JHSPH

Center for Statistical Sciences, Brown University

Biostatistics Section, Department of Community Health, Brown University\*\*\*

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\*\* Funded by the Centers for Disease Control

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**Schedule:**

**Monday May 19 (Sheldon Hall):**

8:30 – 9: Registration and coffee

9-10:30 Symposium 1: Sensitivity analysis for causal models

Session Organizer: Joe Hogan

Dan Scharfstein, Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg  
School of Public Health

Title TBA

Els Goetghebeur, University of Ghent and Harvard School of Public Health

“Sense and sensitivity when correcting for observed exposures in  
randomized clinical trials”

Discussant: Joe Hogan, Department of Biostatistics, Brown University

10:30-11 Break (Courtyard 1)

11-12:30 Symposium 2: Causal inference in multilevel data structures

Session Organizer: Jennifer Hill

Fan Li, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

“Propensity scores with hierarchical data”

Kosuke Imai, Department of Politics, Princeton University

“The essential role of pair matching in cluster-randomized experiments, with application to the Mexican universal health insurance evaluation”

Discussant: TBA

12:30-2 Lunch (Feinstone Hall)

2-3:30 Keynote address: Paul Rosenbaum, Department of Statistics, University of Pennsylvania

“A recent observational study used to illustrate recent methodology for such studies”

3:30-4 Break (Courtyard 1)

4-5:30 Symposium 3: Methods for Mediation Analysis

Session Organizer: Dylan Small

Brian Egleston, Fox Chase Cancer Research Center

“Investigating mediation when counterfactuals are not metaphysical: Does sunlight UVB exposure mediate the effect of eyeglasses on cataracts?”

Marshall Joffe, University of Pennsylvania

“Causal mediation analyses with rank preserving models”

Discussant: Michael Elliott, Department of Biostatistics and Survey Methodology Program, University of Michigan

5:30-6:30 Happy hour/reception (Feinstone Hall)

**Tuesday May 20 (Sheldon Hall):**

Case study: “Observational studies analyzed like randomized experiments, and vice versa: an application to postmenopausal hormone therapy and heart disease”

Session Organizer: Miguel Hernán

8:30 – 9 Registration and coffee

9 – 9:40 Garnet Anderson, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

“Overview and lessons from the Women's Health Initiative”

9:40 – 10:20 Miguel Hernán, Harvard School of Public Health

“Observational studies analyzed like randomized experiments”

10:20-10:30 Break (Courtyard 1)

10:30 – 11:10 Darren Toh, Harvard School of Public health

“Randomized experiments analyzed like observational studies”

11:10 - 11:40 James Robins, Harvard School of Public Health

11:40 – 12 Open discussion