Fast Publication Plan — Causal ML to Reduce ATE (with minor accuracy trade-offs)

Prepared on September 10, 2025. Focus: causal machine learning for fairer decisions (ATE reduction), aiming for the fastest credible publication path in top venues.

A. Favorites (recommended first)

Chosen for speed, fit to causal ML + fairness, and downstream visibility.

Venue	Why / What to do	Key Dates	Link
The Web Conference 2026 (WWW 2026) — Research Track	Fast + top-tier + causal/fairness friendly Target the 'Responsible Web / Fairness & Bias' or related tracks; emphasize causal ML reducing ATE error with minimal accuracy trade-off.	Abstract: 2025-09-30; Paper: 2025-10-07; Notification: 2026-01-13	https://www2026.thewebconf.org/calls/research-tracks.html
ICLR 2026	Top ML + timely decisions before spring conferences Frame as representation-learning with causal objectives; include fairness metrics & ATE estimation error analysis.	Abstract: 2025-09-19; Paper: 2025-09-24; Decision: 2026-01-22	https://iclr.cc/Conferences/2026/Dates
AISTATS 2026	Stats/ML audience for causal inference Highlight identifiability	Abstract: 2025-09-25; Paper: 2025-10-02;	https://virtual.aistats.org/Conferences/2026/Dates

	assumptions, ITE/CATE vs. ATE, accuracy–fairness trade-offs, and uncertainty.	Decision: 2026-01-23	
JAIR (Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research)	Journal route with fast first decision (good if you need a citable paper quickly) Position as core AI with fairness + causal ML; aim for concise, rigorous presentation.	Rolling; goal first decision in 8–12 weeks	https://jair.org/index.php/jair/about
TMLR (Transactions on Machine Learning Research)	Rolling, community-fast ML journal with open review Leverage quick review cycles; can provide fast public visibility (note: not part of ICLR/ICML/NeurIPS J2C).	Rolling; reviewers typically engaged within 2–4 weeks	https://tmlr.org/

B. Conferences — upcoming deadlines (by date)

Submit to at least one September deadline and one October deadline to hedge acceptance risk.

Conference	Abstract	Paper	Decision	Time to decision (days)	When/Where	Link
KDD 2026 — Research Track (Cycle 1)	2025-07-24	2025-07-31	2025-11-23	115	TBD — Aug 2026	https://kdd2026.kdd.org/research-tra

						ck-call-for-papers/
ICLR 2026	2025-09-19	2025-09-24	2026-01-22	120	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil — Apr 23–27, 2026	https://iclr.cc/Conferences/2026/Dates
AISTATS 2026	2025-09-25	2025-10-02	2026-01-23	113	Morocco — May 2–5, 2026	https://virtual.aistats.org/Conferences/2026/Dates
The Web Conference 2026 (WWW 2026) — Research Track	2025-09-30	2025-10-07	2026-01-13	98	Dubai, UAE — Apr 13–17, 2026	https://www2026.thewebconf.org/calls/research-tracks.html

C. Journals — median times (fastest options first)

Journal	Type	Median submission →accept (days)	Median submission →first decision (days)	Notes	Link
npj Digital Medicine	Journal (Q1)	178 (median)	7 (median)	Excellent for clinical/health causal ML applications.	https://www.nature.com/npjdigitalmed/journal-impact
EPJ Data Science (SpringerOpen)	Journal (Q2)	203 (median)	10 (median)	Interdisciplinary data science incl. fairness/ethics studies.	https://epjdatascience.springeropen.com/

Nature Machine Intelligence	Journal (Q1)	230 (median)	12 (median)	Top prestige; slower; publish causal ML & fairness.	https://www.nature.com/natmachintell/journal-impact
AI and Ethics (Springer)	Journal (Q2)		10 (median)	Fast first editorial decision; ethics/fairness focus.	https://link.springer.com/journal/43681
Ethics and Information Technology (Springer)	Journal (Q2)		20 (median)	Ethics/ICT; suitable for fairness framing (less ML-specific).	https://link.springer.com/collections/gadfeibcca
Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery (DMKD) – Springer	Journal (Q1)		3 (median)	Strong for applied ML; fairness/causal applications welcome.	https://link.springer.com/journal/10618
Machine Learning (Springer)	Journal (Q1)		5 (median)	Core ML theory/methods; publish causal ML contributions.	https://link.springer.com/journal/10994
JAIR – Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research	Journal (Q1)		56–84 (goal)	Fast, rigorous; broad AI scope including fairness/causality.	https://jair.org/index.php/jair/about

JMLR – Journal of Machine Learning Research	Journal (Q1)	Not published (varies widely)	Not published	Eligible for ICLR/NeurIPS/ICML Journal-to-Conference presentation once accepted.	https://jmlr.org/faq.html
Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR)	Journal (community/fast)	Varies; reviewers typically in 2–4 weeks	Varies; rolling, open review	Fast, ML-focused; rolling review; strong community visibility.	https://tmlr.org/

D. Stretch (slower, high-prestige, Mihaela van der Schaar style)

Venue	Median submission→accept (days)	Fit	Link
Nature Machine Intelligence	230	Causal ML methods with strong novelty; fairness angle welcome but high bar.	https://www.nature.com/natmachintell/journal-impact
npj Digital Medicine	178	Clinical/health applications of causal ML (ITE/ATE) with validation on real-world data.	https://www.nature.com/npjdigitalmed/journal-impact

E. Action plan (2-week sprint)

- Lock abstract + title framing around causal ML reducing ATE estimation error with minimal accuracy drop; include fairness metrics and causal assumptions.
- Finalize experiments: ATE/CATE estimates vs. predictive accuracy trade-off; ablation on regularizers; uncertainty quantification.

- **Submit to ICLR (by Sept 24) and WWW (by Oct 7) to hedge; prepare AISTATS backup (Oct 2).**
- If journal path preferred: submit to TMLR or JAIR now for fastest citable outcome; prepare a JMLR draft if aiming for later J2C presentation.