

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,109
[Music]

2
00:00:05,919 --> 00:00:11,839
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

3
00:00:09,109 --> 00:00:13,919
from Australia for science and reason

4
00:00:11,839 --> 00:00:16,850
[Music]

5
00:00:13,919 --> 00:00:22,899
[Applause]

6
00:00:16,850 --> 00:00:25,400
[Music]

7
00:00:22,899 --> 00:00:28,579
yes it's the skeptic zone podcast

8
00:00:25,399 --> 00:00:31,309
episode number 488 for the 25th of

9
00:00:28,579 --> 00:00:34,878
February 2018 richardsaunders here with

10
00:00:31,309 --> 00:00:37,390
you from a.m. look raining yes it's

11
00:00:34,878 --> 00:00:39,469
raining still humid Sydney Australia

12
00:00:37,390 --> 00:00:42,049
before we start thank you to those

13
00:00:39,469 --> 00:00:45,018
people who wrote to me and left comments

14
00:00:42,049 --> 00:00:47,209
expressing their sympathy as there you

15
00:00:45,018 --> 00:00:49,850
may recall last week I said I fell on my

16
00:00:47,210 --> 00:00:52,698
back and heard it luckily nothing was

17
00:00:49,850 --> 00:00:56,420
broken thank you I appreciate your your

18
00:00:52,698 --> 00:00:58,460
kind your kind thoughts it's the back is

19
00:00:56,420 --> 00:01:03,590
getting much better it's the tooth that

20
00:00:58,460 --> 00:01:06,978
oh dear it's one of the back bicuspid

21
00:01:03,590 --> 00:01:09,560
something or other up up at the top left

22
00:01:06,978 --> 00:01:13,009
and it looks like it's going to need a

23
00:01:09,560 --> 00:01:16,070
crown but the moment the nerve is acting

24
00:01:13,009 --> 00:01:18,349
up so the painkillers have kicked in so

25
00:01:16,069 --> 00:01:20,928
I think I should be able to do a skeptic

26
00:01:18,349 --> 00:01:22,549
zone podcast coming up on this week's

27
00:01:20,929 --> 00:01:24,829
show we're going to chat to susan gerbic

28
00:01:22,549 --> 00:01:26,989
from guerrilla skepticism on wikipedia

29

00:01:24,829 --> 00:01:28,909
which we do from time to time and I

30
00:01:26,989 --> 00:01:30,978
thought it would be interesting because

31
00:01:28,909 --> 00:01:33,228
we're always talking about it and

32
00:01:30,978 --> 00:01:34,849
advertising it saying why don't you

33
00:01:33,228 --> 00:01:37,219
become an editor for guerrilla

34
00:01:34,849 --> 00:01:38,840
skepticism and edit Wikipedia pages I

35
00:01:37,219 --> 00:01:40,879
thought it would be interesting to talk

36
00:01:38,840 --> 00:01:43,459
to an actual editor one here in

37
00:01:40,879 --> 00:01:45,799
Australia stuart jones and victoria who

38
00:01:43,459 --> 00:01:48,978
took up the call contacted susan gerbic

39
00:01:45,799 --> 00:01:51,590
and is now an editor so i have a chat

40
00:01:48,978 --> 00:01:52,969
with stuart and victoria and susan

41
00:01:51,590 --> 00:01:55,640
gerbic all the way over there in the

42
00:01:52,969 --> 00:01:58,459
united states and we find out what the

43
00:01:55,640 --> 00:02:00,469

process is is it enjoyable what can you

44

00:01:58,459 --> 00:02:02,239

learn and i think you'll find it very

45

00:02:00,469 --> 00:02:04,009

interesting and if you're considering

46

00:02:02,239 --> 00:02:08,179

being an editor for guerrilla skepticism

47

00:02:04,009 --> 00:02:11,209

on wikipedia this is the interview for

48

00:02:08,179 --> 00:02:14,689

you following that it's our new reporter

49

00:02:11,209 --> 00:02:18,199

dr. paul ii and let me read you her bio

50

00:02:14,689 --> 00:02:21,169

which is at skeptic zone TV dr. Pauly

51

00:02:18,199 --> 00:02:25,128

reporter and her segment is called let's

52

00:02:21,169 --> 00:02:27,559

have a random rant a random rant dr.

53

00:02:25,128 --> 00:02:28,968

paul ii is a senior research fellow at

54

00:02:27,560 --> 00:02:31,789

the center for research in

55

00:02:28,968 --> 00:02:33,859

evidence-based practice bond university

56

00:02:31,789 --> 00:02:35,989

she is also a practicing

57

00:02:33,860 --> 00:02:39,200

unity pharmacist and longtime skeptic

58
00:02:35,990 --> 00:02:40,610
originally from Melbourne in 2012 she

59
00:02:39,199 --> 00:02:43,250
helped organize the annual Australian

60
00:02:40,610 --> 00:02:46,280
skeptical on meeting that's the Australian

61
00:02:43,250 --> 00:02:48,740
skeptics convention now she's in sunny

62
00:02:46,280 --> 00:02:50,780
Queensland she is the Gold Coast

63
00:02:48,740 --> 00:02:53,990
skeptics current president and secretary

64
00:02:50,780 --> 00:02:57,199
and you can click the link to the gold

65
00:02:53,990 --> 00:03:00,320
coast skeptics at skeptic zone TV I'll

66
00:02:57,199 --> 00:03:03,289
add a link in dr. Pauly's segment there

67
00:03:00,319 --> 00:03:05,419
on this week's show notes down it's

68
00:03:03,289 --> 00:03:07,219
wonderful to have dr. Paul II on board a

69
00:03:05,419 --> 00:03:09,559
new report a very exciting I wrote a

70
00:03:07,219 --> 00:03:11,449
little less thin for witches you'll hear

71
00:03:09,560 --> 00:03:14,539
it later she said she liked head-banging

72
00:03:11,449 --> 00:03:17,419
music okay she's going to be talking to

73
00:03:14,539 --> 00:03:19,489
associate professor Ken Harvey now again

74
00:03:17,419 --> 00:03:22,458
you would have heard over the years on

75
00:03:19,489 --> 00:03:25,099
the skeptic zone interviews and reports

76
00:03:22,459 --> 00:03:27,979
about the TGA the therapeutics Goods

77
00:03:25,099 --> 00:03:30,680
Administration the overseeing body the

78
00:03:27,979 --> 00:03:33,949
people that put aust-r for registered or

79
00:03:30,680 --> 00:03:37,219
Aust Elfa listed on medication in

80
00:03:33,949 --> 00:03:38,959
Australia they oversee devices medicines

81
00:03:37,219 --> 00:03:41,030
that sort of thing and they've been

82
00:03:38,959 --> 00:03:43,180
coming under a lot of Chris's criticism

83
00:03:41,030 --> 00:03:46,939
lately because of the watering down of

84
00:03:43,180 --> 00:03:48,530
there what's the word their authority

85
00:03:46,939 --> 00:03:52,729
I'm not sure if that's quite the right

86

00:03:48,530 --> 00:03:56,709
word a lot of people are very concerned

87
00:03:52,729 --> 00:03:59,419
that things like pre-approval for

88
00:03:56,709 --> 00:04:01,759
assessment of therapeutic goods is being

89
00:03:59,419 --> 00:04:04,339
watered down this seems to be as

90
00:04:01,759 --> 00:04:07,879
reported last week a bizarre list of new

91
00:04:04,340 --> 00:04:10,069
indications like yin and yang and Qi and

92
00:04:07,879 --> 00:04:14,569
these sort of words coming in which is

93
00:04:10,069 --> 00:04:16,519
incredible and the complaints if people

94
00:04:14,569 --> 00:04:17,689
have complaints about medicine that they

95
00:04:16,519 --> 00:04:20,509
are the overseeing body

96
00:04:17,689 --> 00:04:22,610
well dr. Harvey is a longtime friend and

97
00:04:20,509 --> 00:04:24,829
critic of the TGA and he's going to be

98
00:04:22,610 --> 00:04:28,610
talking to dr. Pauli about the latest

99
00:04:24,829 --> 00:04:31,250
amendments to the TGA the laws the

100
00:04:28,610 --> 00:04:34,550

governor and some of the real concerns

101

00:04:31,250 --> 00:04:36,199

here and many of this have now bear in

102

00:04:34,550 --> 00:04:39,439

mind that this interview was conducted

103

00:04:36,199 --> 00:04:40,969

in less than ideal circumstances so

104

00:04:39,439 --> 00:04:42,978

there's a bit of background noise the

105

00:04:40,970 --> 00:04:45,320

connection wasn't all that clear but you

106

00:04:42,978 --> 00:04:48,728

can certainly hear everything and I

107

00:04:45,319 --> 00:04:48,728

think anybody who's interested

108

00:04:48,759 --> 00:04:52,730

regulation concerning medications

109

00:04:50,959 --> 00:04:55,370

anywhere will get a lot out of this

110

00:04:52,730 --> 00:04:58,490

interview let's have a random rant with

111

00:04:55,370 --> 00:05:00,709

dr. Paulie but before we start here's a

112

00:04:58,490 --> 00:05:03,079

little story that was just brought to my

113

00:05:00,709 --> 00:05:05,239

attention by our former reporter and

114

00:05:03,079 --> 00:05:07,849

vice president of the Australian

115
00:05:05,240 --> 00:05:10,819
skeptics Joe and Ben amou and it's all

116
00:05:07,850 --> 00:05:13,790
about scientific journals and their

117
00:05:10,819 --> 00:05:17,300
accountability when it comes to letters

118
00:05:13,790 --> 00:05:21,140
and papers published and retractions and

119
00:05:17,300 --> 00:05:23,720
we look to retraction watch tracking

120
00:05:21,139 --> 00:05:26,509
retractions as a window into the

121
00:05:23,720 --> 00:05:28,160
scientific process what an important

122
00:05:26,509 --> 00:05:29,719
website this is and I'll link in the

123
00:05:28,160 --> 00:05:31,550
show notes and I think you might find it

124
00:05:29,720 --> 00:05:34,790
very interesting especially the

125
00:05:31,550 --> 00:05:36,790
scientific academics out there published

126
00:05:34,790 --> 00:05:40,700
in February at retraction watch

127
00:05:36,790 --> 00:05:43,990
retraction watch calm retracted letter

128
00:05:40,699 --> 00:05:48,050
about vaccine safety made potentially

129
00:05:43,990 --> 00:05:50,840
slanderous claims last October David

130
00:05:48,050 --> 00:05:53,960
Hawks read a letter to the editor that

131
00:05:50,839 --> 00:05:55,939
shocked him it alleged Hawks and a

132
00:05:53,959 --> 00:05:59,089
colleague had lied about their

133
00:05:55,939 --> 00:06:01,699
professional affiliations Hawks told

134
00:05:59,089 --> 00:06:06,019
retraction watch that he had contacted

135
00:06:01,699 --> 00:06:08,509
the journal toxicology on October 19 to

136
00:06:06,019 --> 00:06:11,509
complain that the letter contained quote

137
00:06:08,509 --> 00:06:13,490
numerous factual errors and could

138
00:06:11,509 --> 00:06:15,740
adversely affect our professional

139
00:06:13,490 --> 00:06:17,990
standing end quote and requested the

140
00:06:15,740 --> 00:06:21,110
journal retracted as soon as possible

141
00:06:17,990 --> 00:06:24,470
Hawks told the editors of toxicology

142
00:06:21,110 --> 00:06:26,600
quote the claims about myself and Joann

143

00:06:24,470 --> 00:06:29,210
been amou are factually incorrect and we

144
00:06:26,600 --> 00:06:31,220
have received professional advice that

145
00:06:29,209 --> 00:06:33,889
they also could be considered slanderous

146
00:06:31,220 --> 00:06:36,320
and quote the journal retracted the

147
00:06:33,889 --> 00:06:39,079
letter yesterday four months after Hawks

148
00:06:36,319 --> 00:06:41,689
request the letter was co-authored by

149
00:06:39,079 --> 00:06:43,699
Christopher Shaw who has withdrawn three

150
00:06:41,689 --> 00:06:46,310
papers about vaccine safety in the past

151
00:06:43,699 --> 00:06:48,469
two years it was written in response to

152
00:06:46,310 --> 00:06:51,350
a letter by hawks and venom ooh that

153
00:06:48,470 --> 00:06:53,720
critiqued a 2016 paper by sure and his

154
00:06:51,350 --> 00:06:56,689
colleagues which had suggested a vaccine

155
00:06:53,720 --> 00:07:00,110
adjuvant might have negative effects the

156
00:06:56,689 --> 00:07:02,750
2016 paper has been cited seven times

157
00:07:00,110 --> 00:07:05,780

- Claire evades analytics web of

158

00:07:02,750 --> 00:07:08,629

science according to the notice quote

159

00:07:05,779 --> 00:07:11,059

this letter to the editor has been

160

00:07:08,629 --> 00:07:13,189

retracted at the request of the managing

161

00:07:11,060 --> 00:07:15,259

editor as it contained inappropriate

162

00:07:13,189 --> 00:07:17,420

statements about the affiliation of the

163

00:07:15,259 --> 00:07:20,509

authors of the earlier letter to the

164

00:07:17,420 --> 00:07:25,460

editor published by toxicology three

165

00:07:20,509 --> 00:07:27,379

eight nine twenty 1753 however evidence

166

00:07:25,459 --> 00:07:29,709

has been provided to the editor to

167

00:07:27,379 --> 00:07:32,870

support the affiliation of these authors

168

00:07:29,709 --> 00:07:36,279

apologies are offered to the readers for

169

00:07:32,870 --> 00:07:39,920

any inconvenience that this may cause

170

00:07:36,279 --> 00:07:42,649

main quote in September Shaw

171

00:07:39,920 --> 00:07:45,170

Christopher Exley of Kiel University in

172
00:07:42,649 --> 00:07:47,089
the UK and others fired back with a

173
00:07:45,170 --> 00:07:48,830
letter of their own in which they

174
00:07:47,089 --> 00:07:52,039
accused Hawkes and Ben amou of

175
00:07:48,829 --> 00:07:54,649
fabricating their affiliations quote

176
00:07:52,040 --> 00:07:56,450
Hawke suggesting correctly that he is

177
00:07:54,649 --> 00:07:58,639
currently a staff member at the

178
00:07:56,449 --> 00:08:01,399
University of Melbourne and neither of

179
00:07:58,639 --> 00:08:04,159
the affiliations given by Ben amou have

180
00:08:01,399 --> 00:08:06,620
ever heard of her men quote after

181
00:08:04,160 --> 00:08:08,990
reading the letter Hawkes provided the

182
00:08:06,620 --> 00:08:11,120
journal with proof that he works at the

183
00:08:08,990 --> 00:08:14,360
University of Melbourne in Victoria

184
00:08:11,120 --> 00:08:16,639
Australia and that Ben amou quote has

185
00:08:14,360 --> 00:08:19,520
written permission from Monash bioethics

186
00:08:16,639 --> 00:08:21,709
Center as a postgraduate student and

187
00:08:19,519 --> 00:08:25,250
teaching associate to list them as

188
00:08:21,709 --> 00:08:28,159
affiliations banquet and is a full-time

189
00:08:25,250 --> 00:08:32,029
employee of Austin health both in

190
00:08:28,160 --> 00:08:34,639
Victoria a commentator on pub appear who

191
00:08:32,029 --> 00:08:36,679
Hawke said was not him or Ben amou also

192
00:08:34,639 --> 00:08:39,439
pointed out potential issues with the

193
00:08:36,679 --> 00:08:42,199
author's 2016 paper and letter noting

194
00:08:39,440 --> 00:08:45,350
quote I have never seen a letter to the

195
00:08:42,200 --> 00:08:47,629
editor as unprofessional as this unquote

196
00:08:45,350 --> 00:08:50,899
Hawke said he was not really satisfied

197
00:08:47,629 --> 00:08:52,879
with the retraction notice quote the

198
00:08:50,899 --> 00:08:55,100
editors apologised to the readers but

199
00:08:52,879 --> 00:08:57,740
not to the author's venom and myself and

200

00:08:55,100 --> 00:08:59,990
who had to fight for over four months to

201
00:08:57,740 --> 00:09:01,820
have unfounded claims about us removed

202
00:08:59,990 --> 00:09:06,620
from a professional scientific journal

203
00:09:01,820 --> 00:09:08,210
and you can read the full statement at

204
00:09:06,620 --> 00:09:09,860
retraction watch that was just the

205
00:09:08,210 --> 00:09:11,570
edited highlights at retraction watch

206
00:09:09,860 --> 00:09:14,029
comm with a link in this week's show

207
00:09:11,570 --> 00:09:16,330
notes and I'm pleased for

208
00:09:14,029 --> 00:09:19,750
Johanne been amou and david hawks that

209
00:09:16,330 --> 00:09:23,120
this retraction at last was forthcoming

210
00:09:19,750 --> 00:09:25,460
although as david hawks points out the

211
00:09:23,120 --> 00:09:28,580
apology was not to them but to the

212
00:09:25,460 --> 00:09:31,879
readers and a big shout out to Joanne

213
00:09:28,580 --> 00:09:33,230
Ben amou and David Hawks and that's

214
00:09:31,879 --> 00:09:35,289

enough for me right now I'm gonna run

215

00:09:33,230 --> 00:09:40,610

downstairs and have something soft

216

00:09:35,289 --> 00:09:43,610

because of my tooth maybe some ice cream

217

00:09:40,610 --> 00:09:45,620

now who know though anything even

218

00:09:43,610 --> 00:09:48,139

slightly cold is really not very good

219

00:09:45,620 --> 00:09:52,759

for my tooth at the moment some warm ice

220

00:09:48,139 --> 00:09:54,559

cream hmm some jelly hmm no I run

221

00:09:52,759 --> 00:09:58,629

downstairs and decide about all that I

222

00:09:54,559 --> 00:09:58,629

hope you enjoy the skeptic zone

223

00:09:58,980 --> 00:10:12,359

[Music]

224

00:10:18,389 --> 00:10:24,970

and joining me now all the way from

225

00:10:22,059 --> 00:10:27,039

Salinas California end sale Victoria

226

00:10:24,970 --> 00:10:30,278

Australia we have susan gerbic from

227

00:10:27,039 --> 00:10:33,909

guerrilla skepticism on wikipedia and we

228

00:10:30,278 --> 00:10:36,610

also have one of the australian editors

229
00:10:33,909 --> 00:10:40,019
of a guerrilla skepticism on wikipedia

230
00:10:36,610 --> 00:10:41,730
stewart jones hello everybody Richard hi

231
00:10:40,019 --> 00:10:44,559
Susan

232
00:10:41,730 --> 00:10:46,480
and it's quite fun because thanks to

233
00:10:44,559 --> 00:10:48,009
modern technology we're all doing a bit

234
00:10:46,480 --> 00:10:49,600
of a three-way conversation interview

235
00:10:48,009 --> 00:10:52,000
but I can see everybody and everybody

236
00:10:49,600 --> 00:10:55,450
can see me nothing's a secret anymore

237
00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:58,539
Susan no I'm really interested in what

238
00:10:55,450 --> 00:11:00,490
Stuart's gonna tell you today so I

239
00:10:58,539 --> 00:11:02,259
thought I'd give you both a call because

240
00:11:00,490 --> 00:11:04,360
Susan we interview you from time to time

241
00:11:02,259 --> 00:11:06,309
I'm the sceptic CERN and we run the

242
00:11:04,360 --> 00:11:08,350
promotions for guerrilla skepticism on

243
00:11:06,309 --> 00:11:10,269
Wikipedia and it occurred to me a lot of

244
00:11:08,350 --> 00:11:12,700
listeners might be interested to know

245
00:11:10,269 --> 00:11:16,389
what happens once they've contacted you

246
00:11:12,700 --> 00:11:18,339
what the process is and what the

247
00:11:16,389 --> 00:11:20,889
discovery process is Stewart you're a

248
00:11:18,339 --> 00:11:22,690
great case in point now you out of the

249
00:11:20,889 --> 00:11:25,179
blue one day you were inspired to

250
00:11:22,690 --> 00:11:28,330
contact Susan and maybe you can pick up

251
00:11:25,179 --> 00:11:32,588
the story what happened to you well

252
00:11:28,330 --> 00:11:35,110
Susan added me to the Facebook group

253
00:11:32,589 --> 00:11:37,000
which is a lot of fun secret Facebook

254
00:11:35,110 --> 00:11:39,909
group or not so secret and as we like to

255
00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:41,649
say and it gave me a link to a Google

256
00:11:39,909 --> 00:11:44,139
Drive with all the training material on

257

00:11:41,649 --> 00:11:46,149
it and a while went and you found all

258
00:11:44,139 --> 00:11:48,639
the materials you needed right on the

259
00:11:46,149 --> 00:11:51,250
the Google Drive huh yep they're all

260
00:11:48,639 --> 00:11:52,870
there every one of them so it wasn't a

261
00:11:51,250 --> 00:11:54,820
difficult process for you to learn the

262
00:11:52,870 --> 00:11:57,429
ropes as it were the the training was

263
00:11:54,820 --> 00:12:00,490
was fairly straightforward and I think

264
00:11:57,429 --> 00:12:03,519
you now are responsible for doing quite

265
00:12:00,490 --> 00:12:05,409
a bit of editing on Wikipedia a little

266
00:12:03,519 --> 00:12:07,689
bit not as much do you say that we use

267
00:12:05,409 --> 00:12:09,969
staff as I'd like but Susan's allow me

268
00:12:07,690 --> 00:12:12,070
to run off and do some other things as

269
00:12:09,970 --> 00:12:14,740
well but I think that having that

270
00:12:12,070 --> 00:12:15,300
freedom is very good as well very good

271
00:12:14,740 --> 00:12:17,759

part of it

272

00:12:15,299 --> 00:12:21,208
but time I've written written three

273

00:12:17,759 --> 00:12:24,120
pages I think four GS aw and written

274

00:12:21,208 --> 00:12:25,949
about four or five of my own and what

275

00:12:24,120 --> 00:12:27,509
was some of the the topics or the pages

276

00:12:25,950 --> 00:12:30,089
from a sceptical point of view that

277

00:12:27,509 --> 00:12:31,740
you've been working on I've been working

278

00:12:30,089 --> 00:12:33,300
on that on blue whale

279

00:12:31,740 --> 00:12:36,659
okay claim much credit for that because

280

00:12:33,299 --> 00:12:39,389
I read of their in London has done a lot

281

00:12:36,659 --> 00:12:41,699
of work there Tracey Spicer who everyone

282

00:12:39,389 --> 00:12:43,980
in Australia knows she's a journalist

283

00:12:41,700 --> 00:12:46,769
who's he's running with the me to

284

00:12:43,980 --> 00:12:48,750
campaign and I'll write throughout the

285

00:12:46,769 --> 00:12:50,970
entire page for voluntary assisted dying

286
00:12:48,750 --> 00:12:56,039
in in Victoria which is which has just

287
00:12:50,970 --> 00:12:57,990
become law late last year so I wrote

288
00:12:56,039 --> 00:12:59,370
Anthony Pratt countless which was my

289
00:12:57,990 --> 00:13:01,919
first one that a lot of people would

290
00:12:59,370 --> 00:13:05,370
know a bit Anthony but he's called on by

291
00:13:01,919 --> 00:13:07,769
the media I mean times of conflict in in

292
00:13:05,370 --> 00:13:09,889
places and he's also he's a social

293
00:13:07,769 --> 00:13:12,870
psychologist who looks at scams as well

294
00:13:09,889 --> 00:13:14,338
and I well I mean you can't help I

295
00:13:12,870 --> 00:13:15,839
suppose when you do this sort of thing

296
00:13:14,339 --> 00:13:17,430
you you would be learning a lot

297
00:13:15,839 --> 00:13:20,100
personally yourself about these topics

298
00:13:17,429 --> 00:13:21,778
plenty I certainly learned a lot about

299
00:13:20,100 --> 00:13:24,870
urban myths and how they work

300
00:13:21,778 --> 00:13:26,850
from working on the blue whale game and

301
00:13:24,870 --> 00:13:29,240
sort of learned a lot about people in

302
00:13:26,850 --> 00:13:31,139
here they behave to the bit of

303
00:13:29,240 --> 00:13:32,190
creepypasta if you want to know what

304
00:13:31,139 --> 00:13:34,919
that is you can look it up on Wikipedia

305
00:13:32,190 --> 00:13:35,630
but mass mass hysteria that's on there

306
00:13:34,919 --> 00:13:38,909
as well

307
00:13:35,629 --> 00:13:40,820
it's certainly very interesting alright

308
00:13:38,909 --> 00:13:43,230
now I'm gonna ask you about the recent

309
00:13:40,820 --> 00:13:45,778
skeptical camp and I know you gave a talk

310
00:13:43,230 --> 00:13:47,879
there about editing Wikipedia but before

311
00:13:45,778 --> 00:13:50,309
we do that Susan is this sort of typical

312
00:13:47,879 --> 00:13:52,230
of the the editors you have around the

313
00:13:50,309 --> 00:13:54,569
world picking it up relatively easily

314

00:13:52,230 --> 00:13:57,539
and then running with it well you know

315
00:13:54,570 --> 00:14:00,600
it's a lot of fun people are always

316
00:13:57,539 --> 00:14:03,809
surprised whenever they write to me and

317
00:14:00,600 --> 00:14:07,079
I almost immediately put them in the

318
00:14:03,809 --> 00:14:09,599
group they are I think there's some sort

319
00:14:07,078 --> 00:14:11,639
of test I'm supposed to be giving them

320
00:14:09,600 --> 00:14:14,430
some of the emails I received from them

321
00:14:11,639 --> 00:14:16,588
are quite interesting where they'll give

322
00:14:14,429 --> 00:14:21,419
me this in-depth look of why they should

323
00:14:16,589 --> 00:14:23,100
be joining gso w I accept pretty much

324
00:14:21,419 --> 00:14:28,039
anybody who wants to join if you're

325
00:14:23,100 --> 00:14:30,889
willing to to try I will take you on and

326
00:14:28,039 --> 00:14:33,409
when Stuart joined the group I looked at

327
00:14:30,889 --> 00:14:37,820
his email recently he said he could give

328
00:14:33,409 --> 00:14:39,948

me four or five hours a week he gives us

329

00:14:37,820 --> 00:14:42,259

a lot more than four or five hours

330

00:14:39,948 --> 00:14:45,469

Indian sometimes it feels like four or

331

00:14:42,259 --> 00:14:49,639

five hours a day and that's by choice

332

00:14:45,470 --> 00:14:50,149

right Stuart yeah definitely he's a lot

333

00:14:49,639 --> 00:14:52,299

of fun

334

00:14:50,149 --> 00:14:55,940

he was apprehensive I think at first and

335

00:14:52,299 --> 00:14:58,129

you know it takes a lot of time to train

336

00:14:55,940 --> 00:15:01,339

and Stuart makes us sound like it was

337

00:14:58,129 --> 00:15:05,179

just like really simple it's it's not

338

00:15:01,339 --> 00:15:07,459

that it's difficult it's it's kind of

339

00:15:05,179 --> 00:15:11,568

like taking an undergraduate college

340

00:15:07,458 --> 00:15:13,609

class with assignments and but being on

341

00:15:11,568 --> 00:15:15,948

your own a lot where you're you're

342

00:15:13,610 --> 00:15:18,139

having to do the projects yourself and

343
00:15:15,948 --> 00:15:20,208
be motivated yourself and then you have

344
00:15:18,139 --> 00:15:23,509
this annoying professor that lives in

345
00:15:20,208 --> 00:15:25,159
California that uses Facebook to talk to

346
00:15:23,509 --> 00:15:27,680
you all the time and say how you doing

347
00:15:25,159 --> 00:15:32,059
how you doing how you come along with

348
00:15:27,679 --> 00:15:36,349
that it's it's an unusual

349
00:15:32,059 --> 00:15:39,049
I think it's an unusual thing for people

350
00:15:36,350 --> 00:15:44,720
to to sign on to do it does take months

351
00:15:39,049 --> 00:15:48,679
to train Stuart's typical I guess he's

352
00:15:44,720 --> 00:15:50,660
not a computer programmer in half of the

353
00:15:48,679 --> 00:15:55,489
group probably or involved in the

354
00:15:50,659 --> 00:15:59,929
computer industry in some way and Stuart

355
00:15:55,490 --> 00:16:02,389
tended to be a bit shy at first and now

356
00:15:59,929 --> 00:16:05,000
he's one of the one of the troublemakers

357
00:16:02,389 --> 00:16:06,759
of our secret cabal it's a nice way to

358
00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:09,318
put it

359
00:16:06,759 --> 00:16:11,568
they formed their own little friendships

360
00:16:09,318 --> 00:16:13,669
in their own little world and there's a

361
00:16:11,568 --> 00:16:16,338
lot of fun things that are that are

362
00:16:13,669 --> 00:16:19,759
going on in the cabal I think you should

363
00:16:16,339 --> 00:16:22,430
mention what the blue well is Stuart oh

364
00:16:19,759 --> 00:16:26,240
the blue the blue while is it's an even

365
00:16:22,429 --> 00:16:28,068
meet them started dead of Russia in

366
00:16:26,240 --> 00:16:30,230
relation to agar getting locked up for

367
00:16:28,068 --> 00:16:33,409
curating death groups on the Internet

368
00:16:30,230 --> 00:16:36,319
and somehow it grew through the media to

369
00:16:33,409 --> 00:16:39,198
turn into a big suicide game and the

370
00:16:36,318 --> 00:16:41,269
idea was the the curator or the a

371

00:16:39,198 --> 00:16:44,569

loosely a mentor would

372

00:16:41,269 --> 00:16:47,480

find somebody give them 50 tasks to do

373

00:16:44,570 --> 00:16:49,910

and the final task being out to commit

374

00:16:47,480 --> 00:16:51,590

suicide so it was a fairly sort of

375

00:16:49,909 --> 00:16:53,990

creepy game that some of the tasks

376

00:16:51,590 --> 00:16:57,470

included self-harm and watching watching

377

00:16:53,990 --> 00:16:59,240

scary movies and it worked there all the

378

00:16:57,470 --> 00:17:03,529

way up to that task and that was the

379

00:16:59,240 --> 00:17:06,230

myth it's and it is a myth but a lot of

380

00:17:03,529 --> 00:17:08,420

people were jumping on board was causing

381

00:17:06,230 --> 00:17:11,630

a bit of mass hysteria particularly in

382

00:17:08,420 --> 00:17:13,220

India I think we all think we must have

383

00:17:11,630 --> 00:17:16,010

been getting two hundred thousand page

384

00:17:13,220 --> 00:17:17,360

views a day just from India and there

385

00:17:16,009 --> 00:17:20,119

were students getting on the tall page

386

00:17:17,359 --> 00:17:22,578

and saying here terrible it was and here

387

00:17:20,119 --> 00:17:24,229

we need to get rid of this game when in

388

00:17:22,578 --> 00:17:27,078

fact it wasn't a game at all and there

389

00:17:24,230 --> 00:17:29,930

was all that it was like you saying it's

390

00:17:27,078 --> 00:17:30,589

a urban myth so that's what that was

391

00:17:29,930 --> 00:17:33,080

about

392

00:17:30,589 --> 00:17:35,329

we had to remove a lot of we had to

393

00:17:33,079 --> 00:17:38,210

remove a lot of a lot of things from the

394

00:17:35,329 --> 00:17:41,809

page at one stage the 50 tasks were

395

00:17:38,210 --> 00:17:44,420

listed we removed that and we were

396

00:17:41,809 --> 00:17:46,250

removed a lot of the a lot of the

397

00:17:44,420 --> 00:17:49,670

misinformation from the page or yes as

398

00:17:46,250 --> 00:17:52,039

well so I think we called it the worst

399

00:17:49,670 --> 00:17:55,250

case of riff bombing we'd ever seen and

400
00:17:52,039 --> 00:17:56,539
a reference is something to cite or a

401
00:17:55,250 --> 00:18:01,460
citation that you see there in the

402
00:17:56,539 --> 00:18:03,200
bottom of a page there was well over 300

403
00:18:01,460 --> 00:18:05,569
or I think on the page at one stage and

404
00:18:03,200 --> 00:18:10,190
we've got at the end of below 200 now

405
00:18:05,569 --> 00:18:12,710
and quite a few skeptical view points

406
00:18:10,190 --> 00:18:15,289
have come onto it from psychologists

407
00:18:12,710 --> 00:18:17,360
rather than just journalists trying to

408
00:18:15,289 --> 00:18:19,250
beat it up and that create clickbait I

409
00:18:17,359 --> 00:18:21,829
guess well that's interesting I didn't

410
00:18:19,250 --> 00:18:23,269
know I mean I had heard about that but

411
00:18:21,829 --> 00:18:24,829
again it's just typical the sort of

412
00:18:23,269 --> 00:18:26,509
things you will learn if you decide to

413
00:18:24,829 --> 00:18:28,939
become an editor for a guerrilla

414
00:18:26,509 --> 00:18:31,369
skepticism Susan what what sort of

415
00:18:28,940 --> 00:18:33,140
statistics now are we looking at I know

416
00:18:31,369 --> 00:18:34,459
Stuart you gave a talk at skeptic camp

417
00:18:33,140 --> 00:18:37,460
where you did mention some of the stats

418
00:18:34,460 --> 00:18:39,559
but we might get them from Susan's of

419
00:18:37,460 --> 00:18:41,269
course surely Susan you have your finger

420
00:18:39,559 --> 00:18:47,659
on the pulse of the this sort of thing

421
00:18:41,269 --> 00:18:48,480
right so we are tracking about 525 pages

422
00:18:47,660 --> 00:18:51,650
that we have

423
00:18:48,480 --> 00:18:57,480
or rewritten in the time that we have

424
00:18:51,650 --> 00:19:02,519
existed and of those 500 I can tell you

425
00:18:57,480 --> 00:19:06,120
right now we're at 545 pages as of right

426
00:19:02,519 --> 00:19:10,410
now and those 545 pages have just given

427
00:19:06,119 --> 00:19:13,199
us 23 million page views so we've just

428

00:19:10,410 --> 00:19:17,160
hit wow we're getting about 35,000 page

429
00:19:13,200 --> 00:19:21,000
views a day and we're hitting about 900

430
00:19:17,160 --> 00:19:23,190
page 900 thousand page views a month so

431
00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:28,259
we're almost at a million pages a month

432
00:19:23,190 --> 00:19:30,330
so it's it's really just insane how many

433
00:19:28,259 --> 00:19:33,419
page views people are reading our work

434
00:19:30,329 --> 00:19:36,720
and this is in many languages not just

435
00:19:33,419 --> 00:19:39,929
in English we are writing in Dutch and

436
00:19:36,720 --> 00:19:43,620
and the tie-in in German and Portuguese

437
00:19:39,929 --> 00:19:45,780
and Spanish and we just had a new

438
00:19:43,619 --> 00:19:47,729
recruit who just finished training and

439
00:19:45,779 --> 00:19:51,779
he's gone he lives in Sri Lanka and

440
00:19:47,730 --> 00:19:53,490
he'll be writing in his language that he

441
00:19:51,779 --> 00:19:56,119
wants to write in there he has he's

442
00:19:53,490 --> 00:20:00,870

about started I think he's starting on

443

00:19:56,119 --> 00:20:03,899

homeopathy and it's some language in Sri

444

00:20:00,869 --> 00:20:06,298

Lanka and I don't have it handy right

445

00:20:03,900 --> 00:20:08,009

it's movement now Susan well I think

446

00:20:06,298 --> 00:20:09,690

about it because I can see you and

447

00:20:08,009 --> 00:20:11,400

Stuart I don't know if you notice behind

448

00:20:09,690 --> 00:20:13,200

Susan there's a map of the world with

449

00:20:11,400 --> 00:20:15,660

Australia right behind her head so

450

00:20:13,200 --> 00:20:17,429

that's very nice Susan that you you're

451

00:20:15,660 --> 00:20:20,340

thinking of us but on the other side of

452

00:20:17,429 --> 00:20:21,900

you on the other side of you is as I

453

00:20:20,339 --> 00:20:24,720

look I noticed that a little plaque

454

00:20:21,900 --> 00:20:27,480

there from the committee for skeptical

455

00:20:24,720 --> 00:20:30,089

inquiry and big congratulations on

456

00:20:27,480 --> 00:20:33,329

becoming a fellow thank you so much yeah

457
00:20:30,089 --> 00:20:35,789
I have I've just become a fellow and I

458
00:20:33,329 --> 00:20:38,460
just got the magazine today and I can

459
00:20:35,789 --> 00:20:41,928
see that they put me in the front cover

460
00:20:38,460 --> 00:20:44,730
I'm right there next to Murray gell-mann

461
00:20:41,929 --> 00:20:47,490
pretty damn good and that I'm still in

462
00:20:44,730 --> 00:20:51,058
the back cover as a scientific and

463
00:20:47,490 --> 00:20:53,130
technical consultant apparently now

464
00:20:51,058 --> 00:20:55,500
Stuart before we wrap it up and we

465
00:20:53,130 --> 00:20:58,650
alluded to this earlier you gave a talk

466
00:20:55,500 --> 00:21:01,079
about your activities on for guerrilla

467
00:20:58,650 --> 00:21:01,980
skepticism on Wikipedia at the recent

468
00:21:01,079 --> 00:21:04,139
skeptic

469
00:21:01,980 --> 00:21:05,940
and I think it was only in the last a

470
00:21:04,140 --> 00:21:09,390
week can you tell us a little bit about

471
00:21:05,940 --> 00:21:11,640
that me I'll just sort of have a bit of

472
00:21:09,390 --> 00:21:14,970
a rundown of it what what drew me to I

473
00:21:11,640 --> 00:21:17,460
guess becoming skeptically active anyway

474
00:21:14,970 --> 00:21:19,589
um through my my wife being sick and

475
00:21:17,460 --> 00:21:22,049
having breast cancer which she's

476
00:21:19,589 --> 00:21:24,869
thankfully over there and then I just

477
00:21:22,049 --> 00:21:27,029
ran into what we did at guerrilla

478
00:21:24,869 --> 00:21:29,789
skepticism went through a few things

479
00:21:27,029 --> 00:21:32,309
that that I thought were were fun or fun

480
00:21:29,789 --> 00:21:32,700
things that we did and it is a lot of

481
00:21:32,309 --> 00:21:34,289
fun

482
00:21:32,700 --> 00:21:35,850
because I wouldn't be doing it if it

483
00:21:34,289 --> 00:21:38,309
wasn't the hook sort of wouldn't pay

484
00:21:35,849 --> 00:21:41,099
they and then all sort of finished up

485

00:21:38,309 --> 00:21:44,579
with with a few statistics a bit a bit

486
00:21:41,099 --> 00:21:46,199
Wikipedia and and here we have we got

487
00:21:44,579 --> 00:21:48,779
along with the error statistical

488
00:21:46,200 --> 00:21:50,039
analysis so it was good it was I really

489
00:21:48,779 --> 00:21:52,319
enjoyed it there was about 50 people

490
00:21:50,039 --> 00:21:55,049
there and it would have been a bad thing

491
00:21:52,319 --> 00:21:57,869
I think the seventh or write them

492
00:21:55,049 --> 00:21:59,129
skipped he came then there on the surf

493
00:21:57,869 --> 00:22:00,989
coast which I think makes it the

494
00:21:59,130 --> 00:22:03,960
longest-running skip T camp in Australia

495
00:22:00,990 --> 00:22:06,000
as well which is just fantastic very

496
00:22:03,960 --> 00:22:08,960
intimate occasion and we all went and

497
00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:12,509
sampled some great beer at the Aries pub

498
00:22:08,960 --> 00:22:13,980
at the end of the day so that's that's

499
00:22:12,509 --> 00:22:15,329

always it good that's always a good

500

00:22:13,980 --> 00:22:17,759
thing that's always a good thing

501

00:22:15,329 --> 00:22:20,939
and folks Stewart gave a talk there

502

00:22:17,759 --> 00:22:22,710
which is on YouTube as a matter of fact

503

00:22:20,940 --> 00:22:24,360
I viewed the other day and then enjoyed

504

00:22:22,710 --> 00:22:27,630
that and I'll certainly add a link to

505

00:22:24,359 --> 00:22:29,759
that talk in the show notes oh I also

506

00:22:27,630 --> 00:22:31,890
wanted to mention that Stewart was

507

00:22:29,759 --> 00:22:34,230
instrumental in one of our latest

508

00:22:31,890 --> 00:22:39,150
psychic stings we're calling it

509

00:22:34,230 --> 00:22:42,150
operation peach pit and that has yet to

510

00:22:39,150 --> 00:22:44,670
be revealed the results but that was

511

00:22:42,150 --> 00:22:48,509
another one of our stings and it was

512

00:22:44,670 --> 00:22:52,500
right over Facebook and it was about a

513

00:22:48,509 --> 00:22:55,829
month of work and Stewart stepped up and

514
00:22:52,500 --> 00:22:59,579
took on one of the lead roles of the

515
00:22:55,829 --> 00:23:02,129
creator of the fake Facebook pages that

516
00:22:59,579 --> 00:23:04,139
we were trying to use to catch a psychic

517
00:23:02,130 --> 00:23:07,860
that was in Philadelphia

518
00:23:04,140 --> 00:23:11,520
oddly enough and nor near me so we had a

519
00:23:07,859 --> 00:23:13,349
crew go in from Philadelphia that had no

520
00:23:11,519 --> 00:23:14,730
idea what was on those Facebook pages

521
00:23:13,349 --> 00:23:17,579
trying to catch si

522
00:23:14,730 --> 00:23:19,529
you cannot read and the story of that

523
00:23:17,579 --> 00:23:22,289
and the results of that should be coming

524
00:23:19,529 --> 00:23:23,819
out hopefully in late March something to

525
00:23:22,289 --> 00:23:25,678
look forward to I love these names

526
00:23:23,819 --> 00:23:28,109
peach-pit you'll have to have an

527
00:23:25,679 --> 00:23:30,690
operation Vegemite or timtam I think at

528
00:23:28,109 --> 00:23:34,168
some stage gotta find me a nice sidekick

529
00:23:30,690 --> 00:23:36,690
over in Australia that I can use I'm

530
00:23:34,169 --> 00:23:39,120
looking for they need to be hungry they

531
00:23:36,690 --> 00:23:42,330
need to be we want to catch hot readers

532
00:23:39,119 --> 00:23:44,069
and they need to use Facebook so you

533
00:23:42,329 --> 00:23:48,139
know if you can find me Sam I'll be

534
00:23:44,069 --> 00:23:50,159
happy to run another another sting

535
00:23:48,140 --> 00:23:54,000
operation Vegemite that might be

536
00:23:50,160 --> 00:23:55,769
interesting because I'll have a chat to

537
00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:57,808
you offline Susan because I certainly

538
00:23:55,769 --> 00:24:00,690
know of a few psychics in this country

539
00:23:57,808 --> 00:24:02,460
who use hot reading who cheat to be

540
00:24:00,690 --> 00:24:04,650
blunt about it without mentioning names

541
00:24:02,460 --> 00:24:07,259
so we might have a little chatter a bit

542

00:24:04,650 --> 00:24:10,259
later on Susan well send me some names

543
00:24:07,259 --> 00:24:12,569
because I certainly and have a lot of my

544
00:24:10,259 --> 00:24:14,789
plate right now but it's something that

545
00:24:12,569 --> 00:24:16,918
we would like to be doing I I I can't

546
00:24:14,789 --> 00:24:20,250
see any reason why we couldn't do a

547
00:24:16,919 --> 00:24:22,500
sting in Australia something to look

548
00:24:20,250 --> 00:24:24,750
forward to indeed we'll look Stuart Oh

549
00:24:22,500 --> 00:24:26,460
all the way down there in sail and

550
00:24:24,750 --> 00:24:28,740
Victoria lovely part of the world and

551
00:24:26,460 --> 00:24:31,200
Susan all the way over there in Salinas

552
00:24:28,740 --> 00:24:34,259
California thanks again and folks

553
00:24:31,200 --> 00:24:37,140
another another prompt if you want to

554
00:24:34,259 --> 00:24:39,179
join in the worldwide campaign and do

555
00:24:37,140 --> 00:24:41,250
something for science and reason well I

556
00:24:39,179 --> 00:24:43,740

would suggest you become an answer for

557

00:24:41,250 --> 00:24:46,890

guerrilla skepticism on Wikipedia but

558

00:24:43,740 --> 00:24:49,009

for now Susan and Stuart thank you very

559

00:24:46,890 --> 00:25:04,049

much thanks for it - thank you

560

00:24:49,009 --> 00:25:06,879

[Music]

561

00:25:04,048 --> 00:25:10,029

the skeptic magazine the journal from

562

00:25:06,880 --> 00:25:12,250

Australian skeptics subscribe online to

563

00:25:10,029 --> 00:25:17,558

the world's second oldest skeptical

564

00:25:12,250 --> 00:25:20,740

magazine visit WWF X comma u and click

565

00:25:17,558 --> 00:25:25,149

the publication's link you can also find

566

00:25:20,740 --> 00:25:28,298

there over 30 years on back issues free

567

00:25:25,150 --> 00:25:31,559

to download the skeptic magazine from

568

00:25:28,298 --> 00:25:31,558

Australian skeptics

569

00:25:32,859 --> 00:25:49,659

[Music]

570

00:25:43,039 --> 00:25:49,659

yeah let's have a random rant

571
00:25:50,089 --> 00:25:59,000
with dr. Paulie

572
00:25:52,930 --> 00:26:02,840
[Music]

573
00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:06,440
hi this is dr. poorly and welcome to my

574
00:26:02,839 --> 00:26:09,288
new segment random red I'll be talking

575
00:26:06,440 --> 00:26:11,470
about science issues that interest me we

576
00:26:09,288 --> 00:26:14,419
do without some more expert friends

577
00:26:11,470 --> 00:26:16,490
today i talk with associate professor

578
00:26:14,419 --> 00:26:18,770
ken harvey about the recently passed

579
00:26:16,490 --> 00:26:26,120
amendments to the TGA bill

580
00:26:18,769 --> 00:26:29,009
[Music]

581
00:26:26,119 --> 00:26:30,989
I'm here today with dr. ken Harvey

582
00:26:29,009 --> 00:26:32,819
associate professor at the School of

583
00:26:30,990 --> 00:26:35,269
Public Health and preventative medicine

584
00:26:32,819 --> 00:26:38,129
at Monash University and well-known

585
00:26:35,269 --> 00:26:41,279
antiquary Crusader and one could say

586
00:26:38,130 --> 00:26:43,670
longtime critic of the TGA I thank you

587
00:26:41,279 --> 00:26:46,889
for joining me again

588
00:26:43,670 --> 00:26:52,380
let me just rephrase that I'm a friend

589
00:26:46,890 --> 00:26:54,450
of the TGA but sometimes friends yes I

590
00:26:52,380 --> 00:26:56,340
think that our closest friends and best

591
00:26:54,450 --> 00:26:58,860
friends are the ones that are able to do

592
00:26:56,339 --> 00:27:01,199
criticize us constructively I'm just

593
00:26:58,859 --> 00:27:03,179
wondering if you could it just for our

594
00:27:01,200 --> 00:27:06,660
international listeners and for those

595
00:27:03,180 --> 00:27:09,060
who are unaware of what the TGA is to

596
00:27:06,660 --> 00:27:12,330
explain the purpose of the TGA or

597
00:27:09,059 --> 00:27:16,099
Therapeutic Goods Administration and the

598
00:27:12,329 --> 00:27:18,329
TGA bill your first 30 goods

599

00:27:16,099 --> 00:27:21,659
administration is the regulatory

600
00:27:18,329 --> 00:27:26,669
authority in Australia for licensing

601
00:27:21,660 --> 00:27:28,680
medicines and medical devices to the

602
00:27:26,670 --> 00:27:31,230
United States student drug

603
00:27:28,680 --> 00:27:33,900
administration so its purpose is

604
00:27:31,230 --> 00:27:36,539
hopefully to ensure that medicines and

605
00:27:33,900 --> 00:27:39,570
medical devices that are available to

606
00:27:36,539 --> 00:27:42,779
the Australian public are of reasonable

607
00:27:39,569 --> 00:27:46,939
quality safety and efficacy and the

608
00:27:42,779 --> 00:27:54,629
purpose so that's its job with medicines

609
00:27:46,940 --> 00:27:57,480
encompasses not just medicine but is

610
00:27:54,630 --> 00:27:59,460
also great supplements what we call

611
00:27:57,480 --> 00:28:03,480
complementary and traditional medicines

612
00:27:59,460 --> 00:28:06,210
and what is the teaching a bill or what

613
00:28:03,480 --> 00:28:10,460

what was it prior to this new amendment

614

00:28:06,210 --> 00:28:13,470

and its purpose in regulation well it's

615

00:28:10,460 --> 00:28:17,130

an interesting title of the Therapeutic

616

00:28:13,470 --> 00:28:20,279

Goods Administration 2017 makers number

617

00:28:17,130 --> 00:28:23,180

one bill which sounds boring but in fact

618

00:28:20,279 --> 00:28:25,920

it was quite a controversial bill and

619

00:28:23,180 --> 00:28:29,400

some bits of it weren't so controversial

620

00:28:25,920 --> 00:28:29,980

for example a bit so that came up with a

621

00:28:29,400 --> 00:28:32,530

producer

622

00:28:29,980 --> 00:28:34,660

kronole scam so patients could have

623

00:28:32,529 --> 00:28:37,240

earlier access to promising new

624

00:28:34,660 --> 00:28:39,460

medicines and that's something that most

625

00:28:37,240 --> 00:28:42,069

regulatory agencies are grappling with

626

00:28:39,460 --> 00:28:46,090

how to get promising new medicines

627

00:28:42,069 --> 00:28:48,519

available the other provisions with

628
00:28:46,089 --> 00:28:51,459
medical devices again was to allow

629
00:28:48,519 --> 00:28:55,240
overseas regulatory departments to have

630
00:28:51,460 --> 00:28:57,190
their approvals accepted by Australia

631
00:28:55,240 --> 00:28:59,529
which might again get them to reach for

632
00:28:57,190 --> 00:29:02,380
markets sooner so there was some couple

633
00:28:59,529 --> 00:29:04,450
non-controversial sensible bits but boy

634
00:29:02,380 --> 00:29:06,720
there were some controversial

635
00:29:04,450 --> 00:29:09,160
areas particularly regarding

636
00:29:06,720 --> 00:29:12,220
complementary medicines or supplements

637
00:29:09,160 --> 00:29:15,669
and also advertising of medicines to the

638
00:29:12,220 --> 00:29:18,308
general public so I saw you in December

639
00:29:15,669 --> 00:29:19,960
at the Victorian skeptics cafe I made

640
00:29:18,308 --> 00:29:23,558
out where you had your students present

641
00:29:19,960 --> 00:29:25,990
their whack-a-mole project findings and

642
00:29:23,558 --> 00:29:28,599
you brought the TJ amendment bill to our

643
00:29:25,990 --> 00:29:31,710
turn to men what was it nearly initially

644
00:29:28,599 --> 00:29:34,509
proposed and what was the issue here

645
00:29:31,710 --> 00:29:38,319
three issues that concerned us

646
00:29:34,509 --> 00:29:41,529
first the TGA was proposing to abolish

647
00:29:38,319 --> 00:29:43,960
pre approval of advancements to the

648
00:29:41,529 --> 00:29:46,808
public for therapeutic products the

649
00:29:43,960 --> 00:29:49,630
second one was they were coming up with

650
00:29:46,808 --> 00:29:52,210
a list of permitted indications the

651
00:29:49,630 --> 00:29:54,700
concept was good that the list was crazy

652
00:29:52,210 --> 00:29:56,548
and the third thing they proposed to

653
00:29:54,700 --> 00:29:58,960
take over the entire advertising

654
00:29:56,548 --> 00:30:01,150
complaint system and introduce a new

655
00:29:58,960 --> 00:30:03,460
code now certainly there were problems

656

00:30:01,150 --> 00:30:06,940
with the old system and there's a need

657
00:30:03,460 --> 00:30:10,779
for a new code but we didn't trust the

658
00:30:06,940 --> 00:30:13,480
TGA and we still don't so let's start

659
00:30:10,779 --> 00:30:15,970
off by discussing first there the

660
00:30:13,480 --> 00:30:20,710
potential repercussions of getting rid

661
00:30:15,970 --> 00:30:24,250
of the pre-approval of advertising there

662
00:30:20,710 --> 00:30:26,590
is a system for checking advertisements

663
00:30:24,250 --> 00:30:29,558
before they go into mainstream media

664
00:30:26,589 --> 00:30:31,359
which is creating television now it's

665
00:30:29,558 --> 00:30:31,930
not perfect it's started a number of

666
00:30:31,359 --> 00:30:33,879
years ago

667
00:30:31,930 --> 00:30:37,000
we didn't have things like the internet

668
00:30:33,880 --> 00:30:39,820
and pay-tv so if a pre-approval system

669
00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:42,789
doesn't cope with new media but on the

670
00:30:39,819 --> 00:30:45,730

other hand it does actually pick up an

671

00:30:42,789 --> 00:30:48,579

awful lot of bad investments that do

672

00:30:45,730 --> 00:30:52,870

need to be changed and improved the

673

00:30:48,579 --> 00:30:55,779

actual system is delegated by the TGA to

674

00:30:52,869 --> 00:30:57,639

two industry associations and that's a

675

00:30:55,779 --> 00:30:59,470

bit of a problem because sometimes they

676

00:30:57,640 --> 00:31:02,380

come to different conclusions on the

677

00:30:59,470 --> 00:31:04,990

same on the same advertisement it's also

678

00:31:02,380 --> 00:31:08,020

not perfect even for the ads they

679

00:31:04,990 --> 00:31:10,480

pre-approve now pick up things that are

680

00:31:08,019 --> 00:31:12,700

obviously crazy like someone advertising

681

00:31:10,480 --> 00:31:16,990

a new product the catsup that which

682

00:31:12,700 --> 00:31:19,930

you're not allowed to do that'll pick up

683

00:31:16,990 --> 00:31:22,150

things like there's no mandatory warning

684

00:31:19,930 --> 00:31:25,029

some you meant to say you know it's

685
00:31:22,150 --> 00:31:26,800
persist let's see a doctor so they pick

686
00:31:25,029 --> 00:31:28,569
up those sorts of things but they

687
00:31:26,799 --> 00:31:31,269
certainly don't pick up things where

688
00:31:28,569 --> 00:31:33,849
there's concern that the evidence

689
00:31:31,269 --> 00:31:35,559
supporting a claim may not be

690
00:31:33,849 --> 00:31:37,359
appropriate they haven't got time to

691
00:31:35,559 --> 00:31:39,669
look up the Internet to look up

692
00:31:37,359 --> 00:31:41,709
references and shake those things up so

693
00:31:39,670 --> 00:31:45,009
although it picks up a lot of good

694
00:31:41,710 --> 00:31:46,960
things and keeps bad ads out it's not

695
00:31:45,009 --> 00:31:48,609
perfect and we still find that something

696
00:31:46,960 --> 00:31:52,180
like 10 percent of ads that have been

697
00:31:48,609 --> 00:31:54,459
pre-approved nevertheless will be found

698
00:31:52,180 --> 00:31:57,930
to breach the code of conduct when they

699
00:31:54,460 --> 00:32:01,660
go to the complaint system a concern

700
00:31:57,930 --> 00:32:04,840
remove it well they're into cutting red

701
00:32:01,660 --> 00:32:08,350
tape making life easier for industry and

702
00:32:04,839 --> 00:32:10,049
so what they proposed was wet let's get

703
00:32:08,349 --> 00:32:13,149
rid of all the pre-approval and

704
00:32:10,049 --> 00:32:15,490
hopefully by having and some stronger

705
00:32:13,150 --> 00:32:17,650
sanctions and a bit more post marketing

706
00:32:15,490 --> 00:32:20,440
surveillance that there won't be any

707
00:32:17,650 --> 00:32:22,600
more problems interestingly even one of

708
00:32:20,440 --> 00:32:24,309
the industry associations Australian

709
00:32:22,599 --> 00:32:27,549
self-medication Industry Association

710
00:32:24,309 --> 00:32:30,460
which conducts pre-approval thought this

711
00:32:27,549 --> 00:32:33,930
was crazy because they pick up so many

712
00:32:30,460 --> 00:32:37,670
problems themselves the system of

713

00:32:33,930 --> 00:32:41,029
increased penalties or whatever against

714
00:32:37,670 --> 00:32:43,370
while the TGA to take companies to court

715
00:32:41,029 --> 00:32:46,190
they've never done that they haven't got

716
00:32:43,369 --> 00:32:48,409
these specialist lawyers to do it they

717
00:32:46,190 --> 00:32:51,620
were talking about the ability to get

718
00:32:48,410 --> 00:32:53,960
bad ads out within ten days now that's

719
00:32:51,619 --> 00:32:57,049
just seems impossible because you've got

720
00:32:53,960 --> 00:33:00,049
to give industry the right of response

721
00:32:57,049 --> 00:33:01,669
to a complaint they've certainly if

722
00:33:00,049 --> 00:33:05,629
they're going to be frightening deliver

723
00:33:01,670 --> 00:33:09,920
fines or injunctions then again they get

724
00:33:05,630 --> 00:33:11,780
a lawyer and we find that for agencies

725
00:33:09,920 --> 00:33:15,590
like Australian Competition and Consumer

726
00:33:11,779 --> 00:33:18,200
Commission which does have again good

727
00:33:15,589 --> 00:33:21,889

powers to bring industry under control

728

00:33:18,200 --> 00:33:23,900

it can take 12 months not 10 days to

729

00:33:21,890 --> 00:33:26,210

bring companies to court and to get a

730

00:33:23,900 --> 00:33:29,980

good judgment against them so again we

731

00:33:26,210 --> 00:33:34,579

felt the TGA really is somewhat

732

00:33:29,980 --> 00:33:37,490

difficult reduce these penalties and

733

00:33:34,579 --> 00:33:41,089

sections it certainly seems that way and

734

00:33:37,490 --> 00:33:43,779

so perhaps we can have a quick

735

00:33:41,089 --> 00:33:46,309

discussion about the second concern and

736

00:33:43,779 --> 00:33:49,309

probably one of the most more disturbing

737

00:33:46,309 --> 00:33:52,909

ones is the indication list the

738

00:33:49,309 --> 00:33:55,609

permissible indications yes what again

739

00:33:52,910 --> 00:33:59,090

the idea was quite a good one at the

740

00:33:55,609 --> 00:34:00,439

moment there is no pre market evaluation

741

00:33:59,089 --> 00:34:02,689

by the TGA

742
00:34:00,440 --> 00:34:04,430
is to say there's some pre approval of

743
00:34:02,690 --> 00:34:06,799
some advertisements but there's no

744
00:34:04,430 --> 00:34:08,960
pre-market approval of complementary

745
00:34:06,799 --> 00:34:11,418
medicines or supplements by the TGA

746
00:34:08,960 --> 00:34:14,000
it's a trust based system and as you

747
00:34:11,418 --> 00:34:15,500
might imagine these sponsors can't be

748
00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:19,929
trusted they're linked to health

749
00:34:15,500 --> 00:34:23,418
evidence to support claims they make

750
00:34:19,929 --> 00:34:25,910
when the TGA does get around to some

751
00:34:23,418 --> 00:34:27,769
post marketing surveillance they find

752
00:34:25,909 --> 00:34:30,168
and for last few years they've been

753
00:34:27,769 --> 00:34:33,320
finding that regulatory violations are

754
00:34:30,168 --> 00:34:35,750
run at around 80 percent of which most

755
00:34:33,320 --> 00:34:37,460
of those are because the companies

756
00:34:35,750 --> 00:34:39,320
actually don't have the evidence for

757
00:34:37,460 --> 00:34:42,168
their claims when it's looked at yet so

758
00:34:39,320 --> 00:34:45,740
what the companies do is make up lots of

759
00:34:42,168 --> 00:34:48,559
creative claims themselves which again

760
00:34:45,739 --> 00:34:49,658
can only be dealt with by complaints or

761
00:34:48,559 --> 00:34:51,969
by person

762
00:34:49,659 --> 00:34:54,849
getting surveillance so again the

763
00:34:51,969 --> 00:34:57,879
teacher thought okay let's get rid of

764
00:34:54,849 --> 00:35:00,460
their ability to have creative claims

765
00:34:57,880 --> 00:35:03,480
which is a good idea and let's restrict

766
00:35:00,460 --> 00:35:06,579
them to a limited list of pre-approved

767
00:35:03,480 --> 00:35:09,730
indications or claims so the concept was

768
00:35:06,579 --> 00:35:12,730
good but typically the TGA then asked to

769
00:35:09,730 --> 00:35:14,230
the industry to come up with a list and

770

00:35:12,730 --> 00:35:18,940
of course the industry came up with a

771
00:35:14,230 --> 00:35:21,250
list of over a thousand 84% of the

772
00:35:18,940 --> 00:35:24,700
claims on the list were for what we call

773
00:35:21,250 --> 00:35:28,329
traditional indications indications that

774
00:35:24,699 --> 00:35:31,409
don't need a scientific base indications

775
00:35:28,329 --> 00:35:35,609
for traditional Chinese medicine such as

776
00:35:31,409 --> 00:35:39,399
stimulated stagnant Chi Sub Zero yang

777
00:35:35,608 --> 00:35:41,889
disinhibitor amid some fascinating some

778
00:35:39,400 --> 00:35:46,200
fascinating indications for traditional

779
00:35:41,889 --> 00:35:46,199
Chinese medicine Ayurvedic medicine

780
00:35:46,858 --> 00:35:54,358
traditional medicine and as I say the

781
00:35:50,829 --> 00:35:57,640
tje bless them seemed to put traditional

782
00:35:54,358 --> 00:35:59,858
indications from alternate medical

783
00:35:57,639 --> 00:36:02,710
practices on the same basis as

784
00:35:59,858 --> 00:36:05,409

scientific information in which it's

785

00:36:02,710 --> 00:36:08,380

going through the hierarchy of claims

786

00:36:05,409 --> 00:36:11,288

and controlled trials and meta-analysis

787

00:36:08,380 --> 00:36:13,750

so you can imagine that this list of

788

00:36:11,289 --> 00:36:16,690

permitted indications with these

789

00:36:13,750 --> 00:36:20,048

laughable claims of disinhibited water

790

00:36:16,690 --> 00:36:22,900

was actually caused ridicule for the TGA

791

00:36:20,048 --> 00:36:24,940

it has been somewhat glorious and radio

792

00:36:22,900 --> 00:36:27,789

and television programmes and newspaper

793

00:36:24,940 --> 00:36:30,159

articles ridiculing Motiti a basic

794

00:36:27,789 --> 00:36:33,278

concern was it was going to allow a

795

00:36:30,159 --> 00:36:35,078

flood of these traditional products and

796

00:36:33,278 --> 00:36:37,719

we're seeing them already I mean there's

797

00:36:35,079 --> 00:36:40,180

a big Chinese influence in Australia and

798

00:36:37,719 --> 00:36:42,969

a concern was that this is really

799

00:36:40,179 --> 00:36:46,118
pushing us you know science it's

800

00:36:42,969 --> 00:36:49,568
encouraging the sponsors of supplements

801

00:36:46,119 --> 00:36:51,250
to evade the need for scientific proof I

802

00:36:49,568 --> 00:36:54,840
mean why should they when they can come

803

00:36:51,250 --> 00:36:56,639
up with traditional indications

804

00:36:54,840 --> 00:36:58,530
it certainly may confuse the public

805

00:36:56,639 --> 00:37:01,799
learning already we're seeing

806

00:36:58,530 --> 00:37:04,560
advertisements for menopause products

807

00:37:01,800 --> 00:37:07,950
with menopause in big capital letters

808

00:37:04,559 --> 00:37:10,590
the byline of patron wisdom modern

809

00:37:07,949 --> 00:37:11,639
medicine and then bouncing your ying and

810

00:37:10,590 --> 00:37:14,100
your yang

811

00:37:11,639 --> 00:37:18,929
you know what consumers will see is the

812

00:37:14,099 --> 00:37:21,869
huge label menopause and they'll see the

813
00:37:18,929 --> 00:37:25,169
slogan that this is ancient wisdom and

814
00:37:21,869 --> 00:37:27,690
modern medicine have no idea that there

815
00:37:25,170 --> 00:37:28,470
is absolutely no scientific evidence or

816
00:37:27,690 --> 00:37:30,720
whatsoever

817
00:37:28,469 --> 00:37:32,549
this is not certainly not get us hasn't

818
00:37:30,719 --> 00:37:35,069
stopped it from being advertised and

819
00:37:32,550 --> 00:37:38,010
it's not going to stop a flood of this

820
00:37:35,070 --> 00:37:40,890
craziness on the Australian market but

821
00:37:38,010 --> 00:37:42,690
we will still be trying there is a new

822
00:37:40,889 --> 00:37:46,440
code coming up we've got the possibility

823
00:37:42,690 --> 00:37:48,990
of putting him advisory statements and

824
00:37:46,440 --> 00:37:51,389
warnings in the new code industry is

825
00:37:48,989 --> 00:37:53,639
resisting the media interests are

826
00:37:51,389 --> 00:37:56,940
resisting because they can make a lot of

827

00:37:53,639 --> 00:37:58,319
money from advertisements consumers and

828
00:37:56,940 --> 00:38:02,429
health professionals like the college

829
00:37:58,320 --> 00:38:04,830
PJ's are all for it but all for the

830
00:38:02,429 --> 00:38:06,929
advisory but I suspect given that the

831
00:38:04,829 --> 00:38:08,940
teacher is a hundred percent funded by

832
00:38:06,929 --> 00:38:13,469
industry and given that there's good

833
00:38:08,940 --> 00:38:17,579
evidence captured by industry I I don't

834
00:38:13,469 --> 00:38:19,439
like our chances and and you know well

835
00:38:17,579 --> 00:38:22,409
that I'm a pharmacist and I'm definitely

836
00:38:19,440 --> 00:38:24,300
not one that flogs the you know come in

837
00:38:22,409 --> 00:38:27,179
for a supplement and and things that you

838
00:38:24,300 --> 00:38:29,550
don't need so I think we're a mixed bag

839
00:38:27,179 --> 00:38:31,559
and unfortunately there's industry

840
00:38:29,550 --> 00:38:34,830
pressure on pharmacies to make ends meet

841
00:38:31,559 --> 00:38:37,230

and unfortunately it's the out of out of

842

00:38:34,829 --> 00:38:39,269

the dispensary or rather the shop stock

843

00:38:37,230 --> 00:38:40,949

that makes the money so it's a it's a

844

00:38:39,269 --> 00:38:42,929

very bad position to be in

845

00:38:40,949 --> 00:38:44,849

and if more money is being pumped into

846

00:38:42,929 --> 00:38:52,469

that that's that's not going to end well

847

00:38:44,849 --> 00:38:54,480

I think pharmacist extra money by doing

848

00:38:52,469 --> 00:38:57,980

and useful things like drug utilization

849

00:38:54,480 --> 00:39:01,170

review is working in general practice to

850

00:38:57,980 --> 00:39:03,690

monitor elderly patients who often do

851

00:39:01,170 --> 00:39:05,760

need deep prescribing so the owner is

852

00:39:03,690 --> 00:39:08,280

there's lots of things as pharmacists

853

00:39:05,760 --> 00:39:10,740

can do that would help quality use of

854

00:39:08,280 --> 00:39:12,840

medicines but there lot did you say the

855

00:39:10,739 --> 00:39:15,479

commercial variety are often locked into

856
00:39:12,840 --> 00:39:17,670
a remuneration structure that has

857
00:39:15,480 --> 00:39:20,130
diminished their income from the back of

858
00:39:17,670 --> 00:39:22,230
the shop and the prescription stuff and

859
00:39:20,130 --> 00:39:24,329
is pushing them into craziness in the

860
00:39:22,230 --> 00:39:29,369
front of the shop but hopefully as I say

861
00:39:24,329 --> 00:39:32,069
there are changes so I can perhaps we'll

862
00:39:29,369 --> 00:39:36,619
have to do another interview sort of

863
00:39:32,070 --> 00:39:40,680
after the 1st of July when this new TGA

864
00:39:36,619 --> 00:39:43,380
system comes into play and we can update

865
00:39:40,679 --> 00:39:45,569
the skeptics on listeners on where they

866
00:39:43,380 --> 00:39:48,690
can go on and lodge their complaints and

867
00:39:45,570 --> 00:39:51,450
I think again this interesting I mean

868
00:39:48,690 --> 00:39:55,139
certainly this rating system is Scottish

869
00:39:51,449 --> 00:39:57,239
problems but one thing's sure we don't

870
00:39:55,139 --> 00:40:00,118
have the amount of adulteration

871
00:39:57,239 --> 00:40:03,379
craziness that the American supplement

872
00:40:00,119 --> 00:40:06,750
system has because the TJ does at least

873
00:40:03,380 --> 00:40:08,730
insist that the ingredients in our

874
00:40:06,750 --> 00:40:11,730
complementary medicines or supplements I

875
00:40:08,730 --> 00:40:13,980
will relatively save a manufacturer

876
00:40:11,730 --> 00:40:17,420
under Good Manufacturing Practice and so

877
00:40:13,980 --> 00:40:21,030
we don't have a great rate of

878
00:40:17,420 --> 00:40:25,099
contamination adulteration etc but we do

879
00:40:21,030 --> 00:40:25,099
have a great label crazy promotion

880
00:40:27,119 --> 00:40:31,779
so there you have it

881
00:40:28,840 --> 00:40:33,990
the ashes passed and there are three

882
00:40:31,780 --> 00:40:36,010
main concerns that have been raised

883
00:40:33,989 --> 00:40:38,619
first the abolishment of the

884

00:40:36,010 --> 00:40:40,360
pre-approvals process although there was

885
00:40:38,619 --> 00:40:41,409
a bit of a win in that will remain for

886
00:40:40,360 --> 00:40:44,710
the next two years while the new

887
00:40:41,409 --> 00:40:47,109
complaint system is tested the permitted

888
00:40:44,710 --> 00:40:49,539
indications list which includes some

889
00:40:47,110 --> 00:40:52,840
terminology that's not necessarily

890
00:40:49,539 --> 00:40:55,119
recognized by medical science and a

891
00:40:52,840 --> 00:40:57,970
rather ambitious compliance the

892
00:40:55,119 --> 00:41:00,329
complaints process I guess we'll have to

893
00:40:57,969 --> 00:41:03,519
wait until July to see what happens

894
00:41:00,329 --> 00:41:03,969
that's it for me for now thanks for

895
00:41:03,519 --> 00:41:23,389
listening

896
00:41:03,969 --> 00:41:23,388
[Music]

897
00:41:30,659 --> 00:41:34,629
thank you for listening to the skeptic

898
00:41:32,889 --> 00:41:36,429

zone now it would be remiss if I didn't

899

00:41:34,630 --> 00:41:37,990
mention the current story that all

900

00:41:36,429 --> 00:41:40,239
skeptics would be reading about at the

901

00:41:37,989 --> 00:41:42,308
moment the alleged sexual harassment

902

00:41:40,239 --> 00:41:44,939
allegations well the allegations aren't

903

00:41:42,309 --> 00:41:47,798
alleged I guess against Lawrence Krauss

904

00:41:44,940 --> 00:41:50,710
now I've met Lawrence Krauss a total of

905

00:41:47,798 --> 00:41:52,900
one time about 6 years ago where I said

906

00:41:50,710 --> 00:41:55,210
hello and he said hello apart from that

907

00:41:52,900 --> 00:41:56,680
he has never appeared on the skeptics

908

00:41:55,210 --> 00:42:01,599
own and I didn't have any plans for him

909

00:41:56,679 --> 00:42:04,230
to do so the list the the the length of

910

00:42:01,599 --> 00:42:06,940
the allegations against him are are

911

00:42:04,230 --> 00:42:08,740
disconcerting to say the least I'm sure

912

00:42:06,940 --> 00:42:12,338
we'll all see how this story plays out

913
00:42:08,739 --> 00:42:14,139
in the following weeks but for this week

914
00:42:12,338 --> 00:42:20,710
this is Richard Saunders signing off

915
00:42:14,139 --> 00:42:22,748
from Sydney Australia you've been

916
00:42:20,710 --> 00:42:29,679
listening to the skeptic zone podcast

917
00:42:22,748 --> 00:42:32,139
please visit our website at wwlp.com tax

918
00:42:29,679 --> 00:42:36,038
and to access the bat catalog of

919
00:42:32,139 --> 00:42:37,900
episodes going back to 2008 you can

920
00:42:36,039 --> 00:42:40,960
follow the skeptics on podcast on

921
00:42:37,900 --> 00:42:43,239
twitter at skeptic zone visit our

922
00:42:40,960 --> 00:42:46,630
facebook page or leave a review on

923
00:42:43,239 --> 00:42:49,989
itunes you can also support the skeptic

924
00:42:46,630 --> 00:42:52,329
zone via patreon or PayPal the skeptic

925
00:42:49,989 --> 00:42:54,519
zone podcast is an independent

926
00:42:52,329 --> 00:42:56,499
production reviews and opinions

927

00:42:54,518 --> 00:42:58,629

expressed on the skeptic zone are not

928

00:42:56,498 --> 00:43:01,609

necessarily those of Australian skeptics

929

00:42:58,630 --> 00:43:08,050

or any other skeptical organisation

930

00:43:01,610 --> 00:43:08,050

[Music]