

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,099  
[Music]

2  
00:00:05,980 --> 00:00:11,839  
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

3  
00:00:09,099 --> 00:00:13,919  
from Australia for science and reason

4  
00:00:11,839 --> 00:00:16,890  
[Music]

5  
00:00:13,919 --> 00:00:23,199  
[Applause]

6  
00:00:16,890 --> 00:00:26,120  
[Music]

7  
00:00:23,199 --> 00:00:30,859  
yes it's a skeptic zone podcast episode

8  
00:00:26,120 --> 00:00:34,840  
number 492 for the 25th of March 2018

9  
00:00:30,859 --> 00:00:37,759  
Richard Saunders here with you from a

10  
00:00:34,840 --> 00:00:40,250  
blue sky I think there could be some

11  
00:00:37,759 --> 00:00:43,219  
rain later on Sydney Australia the

12  
00:00:40,250 --> 00:00:44,628  
seasons are turning the I think we've

13  
00:00:43,219 --> 00:00:47,899  
seen the last of the stinking hot

14  
00:00:44,628 --> 00:00:49,659  
weather I hope so and slowly but surely

15  
00:00:47,899 --> 00:00:52,789  
autumn is here

16  
00:00:49,659 --> 00:00:56,569  
although March and April can be a bit

17  
00:00:52,789 --> 00:00:58,039  
funny I know you don't tune in to the

18  
00:00:56,570 --> 00:00:59,500  
skeptics under here Sydney weather

19  
00:00:58,039 --> 00:01:01,850  
reports but there you go

20  
00:00:59,500 --> 00:01:04,219  
coming up on this week's show we're

21  
00:01:01,850 --> 00:01:07,219  
gonna start with the update the recent

22  
00:01:04,219 --> 00:01:09,978  
update to the BRIT Hermes defense fund

23  
00:01:07,219 --> 00:01:12,200  
story you will recall that Britt Hermes

24  
00:01:09,978 --> 00:01:14,870  
was a former naturopath she's now living

25  
00:01:12,200 --> 00:01:17,780  
in Germany who writes very strongly

26  
00:01:14,870 --> 00:01:20,030  
against the practices of naturopath and

27  
00:01:17,780 --> 00:01:22,310  
she's been threatened with legal action

28  
00:01:20,030 --> 00:01:25,310  
well the Australian skeptics and others

29

00:01:22,310 --> 00:01:28,759  
rallied to her defense to create a legal

30  
00:01:25,310 --> 00:01:31,549  
defense fund so I shall be telling you

31  
00:01:28,759 --> 00:01:33,890  
in a little while what the latest status

32  
00:01:31,549 --> 00:01:36,920  
of that defense fund is and it's all

33  
00:01:33,890 --> 00:01:42,289  
looking very good skeptical action on

34  
00:01:36,920 --> 00:01:44,060  
display following that it's a reply in

35  
00:01:42,289 --> 00:01:45,680  
the sense to the story we brought you

36  
00:01:44,060 --> 00:01:48,829  
last week the interview with Kiera

37  
00:01:45,680 --> 00:01:50,719  
alferov from Berlin who wrote a piece

38  
00:01:48,828 --> 00:01:52,218  
about the problems with the skeptical

39  
00:01:50,718 --> 00:01:55,938  
movement or why the skeptical movement

40  
00:01:52,218 --> 00:01:58,478  
has not been as successful as we've been

41  
00:01:55,938 --> 00:02:01,699  
led to believe maybe in his opinion

42  
00:01:58,478 --> 00:02:04,578  
listening listening to the podcast was

43  
00:02:01,700 --> 00:02:06,289

Rob palmer and susan gerbic from

44

00:02:04,578 --> 00:02:07,998  
guerrilla skepticism on wikipedia and

45

00:02:06,289 --> 00:02:11,990  
they contacted me and i contacted them

46

00:02:07,998 --> 00:02:14,359  
and you'll hear their reply to some of

47

00:02:11,990 --> 00:02:17,719  
the points raised in that story last

48

00:02:14,360 --> 00:02:20,540  
week and it's nice to have a bit of a

49

00:02:17,719 --> 00:02:22,639  
back-and-forth on any topic after that

50

00:02:20,539 --> 00:02:26,599  
we're going to bring you a report from

51

00:02:22,639 --> 00:02:29,149  
The Times newspaper from the UK about a

52

00:02:26,599 --> 00:02:30,500  
homeopathic hospital a few weeks ago on

53

00:02:29,150 --> 00:02:32,879  
the sceptic Zone we interviewed Michael

54

00:02:30,500 --> 00:02:36,689  
Marshall from the good thinking Society

55

00:02:32,879 --> 00:02:40,409  
about the decline the long and winding

56

00:02:36,689 --> 00:02:43,500  
road long and slow decline of homeopathy

57

00:02:40,409 --> 00:02:45,689  
in the United Kingdom and this Times

58  
00:02:43,500 --> 00:02:47,610  
story does revolve around the

59  
00:02:45,689 --> 00:02:51,060  
homeopathic hospitals mentioned by

60  
00:02:47,610 --> 00:02:52,950  
Michael Marshall some weeks ago then to

61  
00:02:51,060 --> 00:02:56,969  
round off the show I'm going to play a

62  
00:02:52,949 --> 00:03:01,259  
clip from a panel which I was very

63  
00:02:56,969 --> 00:03:04,020  
honored to chair in Las Vegas at saikhan

64  
00:03:01,259 --> 00:03:06,389  
last year the panel was all about the

65  
00:03:04,020 --> 00:03:09,570  
problems of science or the roadblocks to

66  
00:03:06,389 --> 00:03:12,539  
good science and the panel members were

67  
00:03:09,569 --> 00:03:15,090  
dr. H he developed dr. Rachel our

68  
00:03:12,539 --> 00:03:17,519  
reporter and noted scientist in her own

69  
00:03:15,090 --> 00:03:19,050  
right of course Cara Santa Maria you

70  
00:03:17,520 --> 00:03:21,150  
know from the skeptics guide to the

71  
00:03:19,050 --> 00:03:23,730  
universe and the aforementioned

72  
00:03:21,150 --> 00:03:26,789  
writ Hermes and what a wonderful panel

73  
00:03:23,729 --> 00:03:28,859  
that was I was just sitting back sort of

74  
00:03:26,789 --> 00:03:31,799  
steering the conversation but really it

75  
00:03:28,860 --> 00:03:33,810  
was those three scientists who had the

76  
00:03:31,800 --> 00:03:36,510  
lion's share and they were far more

77  
00:03:33,810 --> 00:03:41,250  
knowledgeable than me anyway I'll play

78  
00:03:36,509 --> 00:03:42,989  
you the last part of that panel and I'll

79  
00:03:41,250 --> 00:03:44,939  
put a link in the show notes to the full

80  
00:03:42,990 --> 00:03:48,350  
panel which goes for an hour and 20

81  
00:03:44,939 --> 00:03:51,719  
minutes something like that a video that

82  
00:03:48,349 --> 00:03:54,840  
the Center for inquire of recently put

83  
00:03:51,719 --> 00:03:57,810  
online oh and you'll hear some laughter

84  
00:03:54,840 --> 00:03:59,819  
not long after the clip starts that's

85  
00:03:57,810 --> 00:04:03,240  
when George Rab walked on stage with a

86

00:03:59,819 --> 00:04:06,870  
bucket of ice and water it was a bit of

87  
00:04:03,240 --> 00:04:10,650  
a running gag now after those people who

88  
00:04:06,870 --> 00:04:12,719  
wrote in to me desperate to know what

89  
00:04:10,650 --> 00:04:14,490  
the winning score was when we did the

90  
00:04:12,719 --> 00:04:16,009  
skeptics in the pub the trivia now I've

91  
00:04:14,490 --> 00:04:19,170  
been playing the trivia over the last

92  
00:04:16,009 --> 00:04:21,779  
month here on the sceptic Zone we had 60

93  
00:04:19,170 --> 00:04:24,360  
questions I think some questions were

94  
00:04:21,779 --> 00:04:27,119  
worth more than one question each but

95  
00:04:24,360 --> 00:04:28,800  
nevertheless at the pub when we were

96  
00:04:27,120 --> 00:04:32,490  
playing in the pub the winning team was

97  
00:04:28,800 --> 00:04:36,689  
called the lepers and they had a winning

98  
00:04:32,490 --> 00:04:38,759  
score of 54 very high score a winning

99  
00:04:36,689 --> 00:04:41,490  
score of 54 so those people who were

100  
00:04:38,759 --> 00:04:44,639

wondering what other people got out of

101

00:04:41,490 --> 00:04:45,650

the 60 odd questions 54 was the winning

102

00:04:44,639 --> 00:04:49,039

score

103

00:04:45,649 --> 00:04:50,228

and I would like to also tell you and

104

00:04:49,040 --> 00:04:54,160

this is something that I've been

105

00:04:50,228 --> 00:04:57,228

involved with for many years way back in

106

00:04:54,160 --> 00:05:00,160

2001 one of the first things I did when

107

00:04:57,228 --> 00:05:03,228

I joined the Australian skeptics was to

108

00:05:00,160 --> 00:05:05,180

digitize all the back issues of the

109

00:05:03,228 --> 00:05:07,159

magazine the skeptic from the Australian

110

00:05:05,180 --> 00:05:09,110

skeptics and that took the best part of

111

00:05:07,160 --> 00:05:11,900

a year because I recreated all the back

112

00:05:09,110 --> 00:05:13,850

issues and the page layout program to

113

00:05:11,899 --> 00:05:17,149

make nice clean PDFs because the

114

00:05:13,850 --> 00:05:18,740

original copies weren't so good and for



115  
00:05:17,149 --> 00:05:24,379  
other reasons but that doesn't matter

116  
00:05:18,740 --> 00:05:27,319  
however the first ten years or so it was

117  
00:05:24,379 --> 00:05:30,288  
decided only to use highlights from the

118  
00:05:27,319 --> 00:05:32,810  
magazines each of those magazines in a

119  
00:05:30,288 --> 00:05:35,180  
section under a section on water

120  
00:05:32,810 --> 00:05:37,879  
divining or astrology and that was fine

121  
00:05:35,180 --> 00:05:41,449  
but it was decided recently or last year

122  
00:05:37,879 --> 00:05:44,360  
to fully digitized all back issues of

123  
00:05:41,449 --> 00:05:46,430  
the skeptic magazine and I've been

124  
00:05:44,360 --> 00:05:48,770  
working on that now for quite some time

125  
00:05:46,430 --> 00:05:51,199  
bit by bit because a lot of issues were

126  
00:05:48,769 --> 00:05:53,000  
very in very poor condition because they

127  
00:05:51,199 --> 00:05:55,009  
were photocopies of photocopies and

128  
00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:56,629  
sometimes the text had sort of

129  
00:05:55,009 --> 00:05:58,310  
disappeared and it was a matter of

130  
00:05:56,629 --> 00:06:02,089  
recreating articles and things like that

131  
00:05:58,310 --> 00:06:04,788  
an interesting process but now all the

132  
00:06:02,089 --> 00:06:08,179  
back issues of the skeptic magazines in

133  
00:06:04,788 --> 00:06:10,478  
their entirety up till I think last year

134  
00:06:08,180 --> 00:06:13,370  
sometime are available online

135  
00:06:10,478 --> 00:06:15,949  
ww skeptics comdata you click the

136  
00:06:13,370 --> 00:06:18,829  
magazine link all the back issues and

137  
00:06:15,949 --> 00:06:21,800  
what I've done and you might consider

138  
00:06:18,829 --> 00:06:25,698  
doing something like this if you for

139  
00:06:21,800 --> 00:06:28,158  
example I have an iPad if you go to that

140  
00:06:25,699 --> 00:06:32,180  
site on your iPad surf there um Safari

141  
00:06:28,158 --> 00:06:34,550  
and click on one of the PDFs then it

142  
00:06:32,180 --> 00:06:37,370  
loads into your Safari if you then click

143

00:06:34,550 --> 00:06:39,319  
the little export button at the top of

144  
00:06:37,370 --> 00:06:42,259  
the page you can open that PDF in your

145  
00:06:39,319 --> 00:06:44,300  
iBooks right on your iPad and by doing

146  
00:06:42,259 --> 00:06:46,129  
that you can save the entire back

147  
00:06:44,300 --> 00:06:49,720  
catalogue of the skeptic magazine to

148  
00:06:46,129 --> 00:06:52,788  
your device and I've tried this out and

149  
00:06:49,720 --> 00:06:56,419  
works fine takes a little time to do all

150  
00:06:52,788 --> 00:06:58,098  
that but now I carry around with me the

151  
00:06:56,418 --> 00:06:59,430  
entire history of the Australian

152  
00:06:58,098 --> 00:07:02,939  
skeptics is

153  
00:06:59,430 --> 00:07:05,759  
reported in the skeptic magazine a great

154  
00:07:02,939 --> 00:07:07,170  
reference great reading I'm doing a

155  
00:07:05,759 --> 00:07:09,269  
plane trip soon that'll be interesting

156  
00:07:07,170 --> 00:07:12,720  
reading for me and it's an invaluable

157  
00:07:09,269 --> 00:07:16,169

resource for any anyone involved in

158

00:07:12,720 --> 00:07:18,390  
skeptical studying history of the

159

00:07:16,170 --> 00:07:20,670  
skeptics what we thought of this topical

160

00:07:18,389 --> 00:07:23,250  
that topic over many many years anyway

161

00:07:20,670 --> 00:07:24,750  
certainly worth checking out stay tuned

162

00:07:23,250 --> 00:07:27,629  
at the end of the show we're going to

163

00:07:24,750 --> 00:07:29,009  
have another dice challenge every few

164

00:07:27,629 --> 00:07:32,009  
months on the skeptic zone I roll a

165

00:07:29,009 --> 00:07:32,399  
number of dice sky dice here they are

166

00:07:32,009 --> 00:07:36,990  
now

167

00:07:32,399 --> 00:07:38,879  
I have a standard six-sided one that's

168

00:07:36,990 --> 00:07:40,860  
you're very familiar with a 10 sided one

169

00:07:38,879 --> 00:07:43,319  
which a lot of fun good for psychic

170

00:07:40,860 --> 00:07:48,120  
tests 10-sided dice actually good for

171

00:07:43,319 --> 00:07:50,579  
mathematics I have a 30 sided dice and a

172  
00:07:48,120 --> 00:07:51,990  
60 sided so we'll give that all a go at

173  
00:07:50,579 --> 00:07:54,719  
the end of the show and you can use your

174  
00:07:51,990 --> 00:07:55,800  
psychic predicting powers hmm but now

175  
00:07:54,720 --> 00:07:57,930  
it's time for me to run downstairs

176  
00:07:55,800 --> 00:08:01,550  
before running quickly back upstairs to

177  
00:07:57,930 --> 00:08:04,259  
continue the show run downstairs and

178  
00:08:01,550 --> 00:08:05,670  
won't disturb the cats they're behind me

179  
00:08:04,259 --> 00:08:07,819  
at the moment once sleeping on the other

180  
00:08:05,670 --> 00:08:12,259  
chair and once sleeping on top of the

181  
00:08:07,819 --> 00:08:12,259  
the drawers I have here

182  
00:08:12,740 --> 00:08:17,150  
and I think we are enjoying the morning

183  
00:08:14,420 --> 00:08:19,610  
I'm gonna run a sneak tiptoe tiptoe

184  
00:08:17,149 --> 00:08:24,709  
downstairs have some toast

185  
00:08:19,610 --> 00:08:28,460  
with smoked salmon avocado and quince

186  
00:08:24,709 --> 00:08:49,069  
jelly while I do that I hope you enjoy

187  
00:08:28,459 --> 00:08:50,840  
the skeptic zone now we bring you an

188  
00:08:49,070 --> 00:08:53,660  
update from the Australian skeptics

189  
00:08:50,840 --> 00:08:56,240  
website at skeptics comdatais you Britt

190  
00:08:53,659 --> 00:08:58,969  
Hermes campaign reaches significant

191  
00:08:56,240 --> 00:09:05,090  
milestone by Tim momentum published on

192  
00:08:58,970 --> 00:09:07,460  
the 16th of March 2018 update the global

193  
00:09:05,090 --> 00:09:09,830  
campaign to support skeptical campaigner

194  
00:09:07,460 --> 00:09:14,120  
Britt Hermes has reached an astonishing

195  
00:09:09,830 --> 00:09:17,030  
milestone with over \$100,000 Australian

196  
00:09:14,120 --> 00:09:18,470  
or a 62 thousand euro raised thanks to

197  
00:09:17,029 --> 00:09:21,319  
the generosity of the worldwide

198  
00:09:18,470 --> 00:09:22,970  
skeptical community the fundraising

199  
00:09:21,320 --> 00:09:25,970  
campaign organised by Australian

200

00:09:22,970 --> 00:09:29,060  
skeptics Inc ASI was launched on the

201  
00:09:25,970 --> 00:09:32,029  
14th of January the original campaign

202  
00:09:29,059 --> 00:09:35,689  
goal of at least \$80,000 Australian or

203  
00:09:32,029 --> 00:09:38,299  
50,000 euro was the amount brits lawyer

204  
00:09:35,690 --> 00:09:40,640  
had advised would likely be required and

205  
00:09:38,299 --> 00:09:44,019  
that figure was reached in less than

206  
00:09:40,639 --> 00:09:47,149  
nine days via more than 2000 donations

207  
00:09:44,019 --> 00:09:49,819  
considering the unpredictable nature of

208  
00:09:47,149 --> 00:09:50,750  
legal costs the final amount required

209  
00:09:49,820 --> 00:09:53,450  
may vary

210  
00:09:50,750 --> 00:09:54,889  
while the prime focus of the campaign is

211  
00:09:53,450 --> 00:09:56,810  
to ensure that Britt will not be

212  
00:09:54,889 --> 00:09:59,629  
out-of-pocket from what might be

213  
00:09:56,809 --> 00:10:01,879  
considerable legal costs the broader

214  
00:09:59,629 --> 00:10:04,490

message goes beyond her situation as

215

00:10:01,879 --> 00:10:06,710

Hermes herself said in a recent message

216

00:10:04,490 --> 00:10:08,570

to donors quote the international

217

00:10:06,710 --> 00:10:10,550

skeptic and science community stands

218

00:10:08,570 --> 00:10:13,280

united to protect the freedom to

219

00:10:10,549 --> 00:10:15,500

criticise pseudoscience and preserve the

220

00:10:13,279 --> 00:10:18,470

scientific enterprise end quote

221

00:10:15,500 --> 00:10:20,330

this recent campaign is indicative of a

222

00:10:18,470 --> 00:10:23,269

trend over the last decade for

223

00:10:20,330 --> 00:10:25,970

cross-border skeptical action fired by

224

00:10:23,269 --> 00:10:26,720

social media disparate groups have been

225

00:10:25,970 --> 00:10:28,519

able to

226

00:10:26,720 --> 00:10:30,379

coordinate programs that raise the

227

00:10:28,519 --> 00:10:32,870

profile of skeptics globally and

228

00:10:30,379 --> 00:10:35,480

emphasize the power of joint action



229  
00:10:32,870 --> 00:10:38,328  
should more funds be raised than

230  
00:10:35,480 --> 00:10:40,459  
required to cover Brits costs they will

231  
00:10:38,328 --> 00:10:42,859  
be held for a period of up to 12 months

232  
00:10:40,458 --> 00:10:45,469  
to ensure the legal risk to Britta's

233  
00:10:42,860 --> 00:10:47,688  
past after which they will be put into a

234  
00:10:45,470 --> 00:10:50,540  
generalized global skeptics Legal

235  
00:10:47,688 --> 00:10:52,938  
Defense Fund we will continue to update

236  
00:10:50,539 --> 00:10:57,019  
readers and donors on the progress of

237  
00:10:52,938 --> 00:10:58,698  
the campaign and that update comes to us

238  
00:10:57,019 --> 00:11:01,310  
from the Australian skeptics website

239  
00:10:58,698 --> 00:11:02,459  
skeptics calm day you with a link in

240  
00:11:01,309 --> 00:11:12,599  
this week's show notes

241  
00:11:02,460 --> 00:11:12,600  
[Music]

242  
00:11:13,799 --> 00:11:19,179  
hello Anala needle on solo scoffs of

243  
00:11:17,139 --> 00:11:21,669  
deep moments been to an atlas another

244  
00:11:19,179 --> 00:11:26,649  
skeptical zone for weed to stop and Kitty

245  
00:11:21,669 --> 00:11:48,159  
snide incur moving from our seat Anna we

246  
00:11:26,649 --> 00:11:50,318  
may be been skeptics own Burns TV now

247  
00:11:48,159 --> 00:11:52,409  
last week on the skeptical zone yeah I'm

248  
00:11:50,318 --> 00:11:55,269  
sure you will recall we interviewed

249  
00:11:52,409 --> 00:11:57,850  
curial Alvaro all the way from Germany

250  
00:11:55,269 --> 00:11:59,560  
who wrote a piece an opinion piece an

251  
00:11:57,850 --> 00:12:02,319  
essay about the problems with the

252  
00:11:59,559 --> 00:12:05,229  
skeptical movement and why in his

253  
00:12:02,318 --> 00:12:08,338  
opinion it hasn't been very successful

254  
00:12:05,230 --> 00:12:12,539  
really over the last decade or two and

255  
00:12:08,339 --> 00:12:15,279  
that also is in regard to outreach well

256  
00:12:12,539 --> 00:12:17,708  
listening listening to the skeptic sound

257

00:12:15,278 --> 00:12:20,379  
as they do every week I'm sure we had

258  
00:12:17,708 --> 00:12:22,750  
Rob Parma and susan gerbic from

259  
00:12:20,379 --> 00:12:27,338  
guerrilla skepticism on Wikipedia and

260  
00:12:22,750 --> 00:12:30,188  
they both sent me a note a message Rob

261  
00:12:27,339 --> 00:12:31,600  
sent me a text to message while Susan

262  
00:12:30,188 --> 00:12:35,559  
recorded something and I'll play that in

263  
00:12:31,600 --> 00:12:37,839  
a second but Rob says I Richard I just

264  
00:12:35,559 --> 00:12:41,318  
heard your interview with the qll HaRav

265  
00:12:37,839 --> 00:12:43,389  
on the skeptics own about the skeptical

266  
00:12:41,318 --> 00:12:46,149  
movement failing to do outreach to the

267  
00:12:43,389 --> 00:12:48,789  
public in order to change their hearts

268  
00:12:46,149 --> 00:12:51,549  
and minds I think I need to comment on

269  
00:12:48,789 --> 00:12:53,740  
what I heard you may well know what I'm

270  
00:12:51,549 --> 00:12:57,639  
about to say because you interviewed me

271  
00:12:53,740 --> 00:12:58,028

at saikhan on this very subject but here

272

00:12:57,639 --> 00:13:00,159  
goes

273

00:12:58,028 --> 00:13:02,588  
I was thinking as I heard the interview

274

00:13:00,159 --> 00:13:05,438  
on my car radio mentioned gorilla

275

00:13:02,589 --> 00:13:08,170  
sceptics mentioned gorilla skeptics come

276

00:13:05,438 --> 00:13:10,389  
on already mention gorilla skeptics the

277

00:13:08,169 --> 00:13:14,229  
interview ended NGS o/w was not

278

00:13:10,389 --> 00:13:16,209  
mentioned at all if I was part of that

279

00:13:14,230 --> 00:13:19,659  
conversation I would have had to

280

00:13:16,208 --> 00:13:23,739  
interject but for me joining and growing

281

00:13:19,659 --> 00:13:25,299  
gso w is the best way I found to reach

282

00:13:23,740 --> 00:13:28,000  
outside the skeptical

283

00:13:25,299 --> 00:13:29,009  
we'll and educate those who aren't part

284

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:31,809  
of our community

285

00:13:29,009 --> 00:13:34,269  
before joining this team I was totally

286  
00:13:31,809 --> 00:13:36,719  
frustrated I wasn't able to change the

287  
00:13:34,269 --> 00:13:39,339  
minds of any true believers I know about

288  
00:13:36,720 --> 00:13:41,170  
virtually anything and I didn't think

289  
00:13:39,339 --> 00:13:43,209  
there was anything I could do

290  
00:13:41,169 --> 00:13:47,349  
differently then thanks to your podcast

291  
00:13:43,208 --> 00:13:50,619  
I heard about gso W in the year and a

292  
00:13:47,350 --> 00:13:52,870  
half since joining the GSO W team the

293  
00:13:50,620 --> 00:13:55,720  
thirteen articles I created or largely

294  
00:13:52,870 --> 00:13:57,639  
free wrote on Wikipedia to add science

295  
00:13:55,720 --> 00:14:01,149  
and fight pseudoscience collectively

296  
00:13:57,639 --> 00:14:04,899  
have had over 700 thousand page viewings

297  
00:14:01,149 --> 00:14:07,958  
and Counting that doesn't even consider

298  
00:14:04,899 --> 00:14:10,839  
the unmeasured number of views on the

299  
00:14:07,958 --> 00:14:13,569  
many many other articles I have made

300  
00:14:10,839 --> 00:14:16,420  
minor but significant skeptically

301  
00:14:13,570 --> 00:14:19,120  
orientated changes too how amazing is

302  
00:14:16,419 --> 00:14:23,199  
that I often try to visualize that

303  
00:14:19,120 --> 00:14:25,539  
number it's 10 or more baseball stadiums

304  
00:14:23,200 --> 00:14:28,480  
filled with people and that from just

305  
00:14:25,539 --> 00:14:30,789  
one person who a little while ago

306  
00:14:28,480 --> 00:14:33,909  
thought there was nothing they could do

307  
00:14:30,789 --> 00:14:36,610  
to help the movement one example of what

308  
00:14:33,909 --> 00:14:39,338  
gso w can do ironically was brought up

309  
00:14:36,610 --> 00:14:41,110  
by kirill he asserted that no one

310  
00:14:39,339 --> 00:14:42,970  
outside the skeptical movement knows

311  
00:14:41,110 --> 00:14:45,940  
about Randy's involvement with Uri

312  
00:14:42,970 --> 00:14:48,670  
Geller on The Tonight Show not true a

313  
00:14:45,940 --> 00:14:51,339  
long time ago I added a section to

314

00:14:48,669 --> 00:14:54,669  
Geller's wiki article documenting the

315  
00:14:51,339 --> 00:14:57,490  
entire thing the result is about 10,000

316  
00:14:54,669 --> 00:15:00,189  
people per month since then have access

317  
00:14:57,490 --> 00:15:00,879  
to that article and were able to read

318  
00:15:00,190 --> 00:15:03,640  
all about it

319  
00:15:00,879 --> 00:15:05,919  
many may be true believers and be

320  
00:15:03,639 --> 00:15:08,009  
reading about this for the first time it

321  
00:15:05,919 --> 00:15:11,198  
may make at least some percentage

322  
00:15:08,009 --> 00:15:14,679  
reconsider that Geller is genuine and by

323  
00:15:11,198 --> 00:15:18,069  
extension maybe start to doubt all other

324  
00:15:14,679 --> 00:15:21,489  
whoo peddlers as a whole gso w team has

325  
00:15:18,070 --> 00:15:24,459  
over 24 million page views on just our

326  
00:15:21,490 --> 00:15:26,259  
major articles with a million more added

327  
00:15:24,458 --> 00:15:29,049  
every month millions

328  
00:15:26,259 --> 00:15:30,850

I find that mind-boggling but with all

329

00:15:29,049 --> 00:15:33,490

the whoo in the world it's never enough

330

00:15:30,850 --> 00:15:35,680

the larger the team gets the more we can

331

00:15:33,490 --> 00:15:37,810

do so the best way I know to interject

332

00:15:35,679 --> 00:15:39,189

the skeptical viewpoint into the

333

00:15:37,809 --> 00:15:41,559

information available

334

00:15:39,190 --> 00:15:43,300

to the general public is to grow the

335

00:15:41,559 --> 00:15:44,500

size of the guerrilla skeptics team

336

00:15:43,299 --> 00:15:47,079

anyway

337

00:15:44,500 --> 00:15:50,230

love the zone but just had to point this

338

00:15:47,080 --> 00:15:52,930

out keep up the good work thanks Rob

339

00:15:50,230 --> 00:15:55,690

thanks for your point of view and it

340

00:15:52,929 --> 00:15:58,299

it's nice to have a bit of back and

341

00:15:55,690 --> 00:16:03,640

forth on this topic and here is the

342

00:15:58,299 --> 00:16:05,949

message sent to me by susan gerbic hello



343  
00:16:03,639 --> 00:16:10,269  
everyone this is susan gerbic from the

344  
00:16:05,950 --> 00:16:12,850  
GSO w wikipedia project Richard asked

345  
00:16:10,269 --> 00:16:16,689  
for my thoughts on the interview he did

346  
00:16:12,850 --> 00:16:19,120  
with Carell just last week after Rob

347  
00:16:16,690 --> 00:16:22,420  
Palmer who's one of my gso w editors

348  
00:16:19,120 --> 00:16:24,250  
reached out to Richard krill and I are

349  
00:16:22,419 --> 00:16:26,769  
good friends and he shared the essay

350  
00:16:24,250 --> 00:16:29,169  
with me months ago and I told him that I

351  
00:16:26,769 --> 00:16:33,429  
agreed with parts of it and not other

352  
00:16:29,169 --> 00:16:35,769  
parts I also know something that most

353  
00:16:33,429 --> 00:16:37,929  
other at most other people don't know

354  
00:16:35,769 --> 00:16:40,600  
the listeners who didn't read the essay

355  
00:16:37,929 --> 00:16:44,769  
and that is that krill did single out

356  
00:16:40,600 --> 00:16:48,070  
the GSO w project in his essay he wrote

357  
00:16:44,769 --> 00:16:50,019  
a number of sceptical initiatives are an

358  
00:16:48,070 --> 00:16:53,680  
exception to the rule and are

359  
00:16:50,019 --> 00:16:56,529  
outward-looking illustrious example of

360  
00:16:53,679 --> 00:16:59,139  
this is susan gerbic scrilla skepticism

361  
00:16:56,529 --> 00:17:01,419  
on wikipedia project it's a perfect

362  
00:16:59,139 --> 00:17:04,059  
example of activism that is focused on

363  
00:17:01,419 --> 00:17:06,188  
non skeptic audiences thanks to

364  
00:17:04,059 --> 00:17:11,470  
Wikipedia's reporting tools the reach of

365  
00:17:06,189 --> 00:17:13,480  
gso w is also quantifiable and so this

366  
00:17:11,470 --> 00:17:16,870  
part didn't make it into the interview

367  
00:17:13,480 --> 00:17:19,390  
with Richard and Rob is very passionate

368  
00:17:16,869 --> 00:17:22,539  
about gso W as are the rest of the team

369  
00:17:19,390 --> 00:17:24,220  
in fact Rob learned of gso W from the

370  
00:17:22,539 --> 00:17:26,619  
skeptic zone and he lives in the east

371

00:17:24,220 --> 00:17:29,079  
coast of the United States we do get a

372  
00:17:26,619 --> 00:17:30,939  
lot of our gso w people from the skeptic

373  
00:17:29,079 --> 00:17:34,599  
zone and i have a large group that are

374  
00:17:30,940 --> 00:17:38,759  
australian so gso w has just published

375  
00:17:34,599 --> 00:17:43,929  
our 560 third wikipedia page

376  
00:17:38,759 --> 00:17:46,329  
those 563 pages have just hit 24 million

377  
00:17:43,930 --> 00:17:49,539  
one hundred and forty seven thousand

378  
00:17:46,329 --> 00:17:52,539  
eight hundred and fifty page views most

379  
00:17:49,539 --> 00:17:55,089  
are in English but a good chunk of these

380  
00:17:52,539 --> 00:17:59,319  
pages are in other languages we add

381  
00:17:55,089 --> 00:18:00,699  
about 34,000 page views a day and we're

382  
00:17:59,319 --> 00:18:03,309  
getting really close to hitting a

383  
00:18:00,700 --> 00:18:04,660  
hundred thousand page views a month and

384  
00:18:03,309 --> 00:18:07,359  
we're always looking for more people to

385  
00:18:04,660 --> 00:18:11,080

train into GS o W su do please contact

386

00:18:07,359 --> 00:18:13,929

me on Facebook if you're interested so

387

00:18:11,079 --> 00:18:15,759

back to krill I've traveled all over the

388

00:18:13,930 --> 00:18:17,560

world these last few years of speaking

389

00:18:15,759 --> 00:18:20,920

to skeptic groups and I've been thinking

390

00:18:17,559 --> 00:18:23,440

a lot about these questions I disagree

391

00:18:20,920 --> 00:18:25,420

with krill about podcasts I think we're

392

00:18:23,440 --> 00:18:27,730

still at the beginning of podcasts as

393

00:18:25,420 --> 00:18:30,190

influencer they're allowing us to reach

394

00:18:27,730 --> 00:18:33,009

audiences all over that miss the

395

00:18:30,190 --> 00:18:35,350

face-to-face gatherings and we need more

396

00:18:33,009 --> 00:18:37,690

podcasts especially in languages other

397

00:18:35,349 --> 00:18:39,339

than English conferences are also

398

00:18:37,690 --> 00:18:41,559

incredibly important to grow our

399

00:18:39,339 --> 00:18:42,819

community the first steps towards

400  
00:18:41,559 --> 00:18:45,700  
activism is when you meet people

401  
00:18:42,819 --> 00:18:48,460  
face-to-face and find out you're not

402  
00:18:45,700 --> 00:18:51,100  
alone and I hear all the time from new

403  
00:18:48,460 --> 00:18:53,289  
gso W people and also whenever I travel

404  
00:18:51,099 --> 00:18:56,049  
how important podcasting is to those

405  
00:18:53,289 --> 00:18:58,299  
people now here's where I do agree with

406  
00:18:56,049 --> 00:19:00,940  
krill other problems

407  
00:18:58,299 --> 00:19:04,089  
our problems are time resources and

408  
00:19:00,940 --> 00:19:05,740  
money we already have experts and we

409  
00:19:04,089 --> 00:19:07,750  
have motivated people and those people

410  
00:19:05,740 --> 00:19:11,200  
are usually just waiting to be told how

411  
00:19:07,750 --> 00:19:13,390  
to help and we need more managerial type

412  
00:19:11,200 --> 00:19:15,340  
people I think people are under the

413  
00:19:13,390 --> 00:19:17,259  
illusion that in order to lead you need

414  
00:19:15,339 --> 00:19:19,649  
to be an academic or part of a large

415  
00:19:17,259 --> 00:19:22,779  
organization and that's just not true

416  
00:19:19,650 --> 00:19:25,950  
what I propose our small focus groups

417  
00:19:22,779 --> 00:19:28,029  
with an end goal on a fixed time scale

418  
00:19:25,950 --> 00:19:30,850  
made up of people who are not

419  
00:19:28,029 --> 00:19:33,309  
necessarily in proximity to each other

420  
00:19:30,849 --> 00:19:35,619  
but share the same goal and you can use

421  
00:19:33,309 --> 00:19:39,609  
secret Facebook groups it's really easy

422  
00:19:35,619 --> 00:19:41,409  
to do it's cheap and very effective and

423  
00:19:39,609 --> 00:19:44,859  
I do it all the time with various

424  
00:19:41,410 --> 00:19:46,330  
psychics psychic stings that I run so

425  
00:19:44,859 --> 00:19:48,490  
I'm going to give you one example real

426  
00:19:46,329 --> 00:19:49,869  
quick of one of our latest projects that

427  
00:19:48,490 --> 00:19:53,019  
we're running right now it's called

428

00:19:49,869 --> 00:19:56,469  
Operation hunt-and-peck and it's about

429  
00:19:53,019 --> 00:19:58,660  
facilitated communication f.c is what

430  
00:19:56,470 --> 00:20:01,000  
it's called for short and it's the

431  
00:19:58,660 --> 00:20:03,870  
low-hanging fruit I mean we already know

432  
00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:06,339  
it's discredited and we know how it's

433  
00:20:03,869 --> 00:20:08,649  
well doesn't work but where

434  
00:20:06,339 --> 00:20:10,509  
know all that there's lots of academic

435  
00:20:08,650 --> 00:20:13,240  
work that's already been done on it

436  
00:20:10,509 --> 00:20:14,980  
so it needs to go we need a success

437  
00:20:13,240 --> 00:20:16,808  
under our under our belt and I think

438  
00:20:14,980 --> 00:20:19,298  
facilitated communication is where we

439  
00:20:16,808 --> 00:20:21,278  
should be starting so I've gathered up

440  
00:20:19,298 --> 00:20:24,158  
experts and people who care a lot about

441  
00:20:21,278 --> 00:20:27,490  
this project they're already on on page

442  
00:20:24,159 --> 00:20:29,950

with us and so that was step one step

443

00:20:27,490 --> 00:20:31,500

two is to put all the wikipedia pages in

444

00:20:29,950 --> 00:20:34,120

order that have anything to do with

445

00:20:31,500 --> 00:20:36,669

facilitated communication because when

446

00:20:34,119 --> 00:20:38,528

we start making a fuss the public is

447

00:20:36,669 --> 00:20:40,179

going to want to know what facilitated

448

00:20:38,528 --> 00:20:43,089

communication is and why should they

449

00:20:40,179 --> 00:20:45,580

care a book isn't going to work nobody's

450

00:20:43,089 --> 00:20:48,609

gonna read a book about it a website or

451

00:20:45,579 --> 00:20:50,470

blog no the way you're really gonna get

452

00:20:48,609 --> 00:20:52,058

the attention of the public is to make

453

00:20:50,470 --> 00:20:55,240

sure that they have a place to go to

454

00:20:52,058 --> 00:20:58,210

that that's free and easy and it's

455

00:20:55,240 --> 00:21:00,669

Wikipedia right so that's already done

456

00:20:58,210 --> 00:21:04,750

those Wikipedia pages are completely



457  
00:21:00,669 --> 00:21:06,250  
done in pro and con and all the

458  
00:21:04,750 --> 00:21:09,490  
resources are there they're in great

459  
00:21:06,250 --> 00:21:12,909  
shape Jaso W has taken care of that so

460  
00:21:09,490 --> 00:21:15,308  
the third step were picking a target so

461  
00:21:12,909 --> 00:21:17,799  
facilitated communication hold holds

462  
00:21:15,308 --> 00:21:19,990  
workshops on university campuses in the

463  
00:21:17,798 --> 00:21:21,639  
United States and they use the

464  
00:21:19,990 --> 00:21:25,210  
university's name to give them

465  
00:21:21,640 --> 00:21:27,640  
credibility so what I think we should do

466  
00:21:25,210 --> 00:21:30,579  
is we should try to get the universities

467  
00:21:27,640 --> 00:21:32,559  
to cancel those workshops so now I think

468  
00:21:30,579 --> 00:21:35,139  
this tactic is cheaper and quicker than

469  
00:21:32,558 --> 00:21:37,058  
getting these laws passed and we might

470  
00:21:35,140 --> 00:21:38,830  
be able we might need help from you all

471  
00:21:37,058 --> 00:21:40,538  
to help us out to convince these

472  
00:21:38,829 --> 00:21:43,960  
institutions to stop supporting

473  
00:21:40,538 --> 00:21:46,269  
facilitated communication so please be

474  
00:21:43,960 --> 00:21:48,548  
on the lookout for a call for help and

475  
00:21:46,269 --> 00:21:51,129  
this is just our first attempt so let's

476  
00:21:48,548 --> 00:21:52,599  
see if this works this tactic can be

477  
00:21:51,130 --> 00:21:55,360  
used for other causes

478  
00:21:52,599 --> 00:21:57,579  
let's live and learn and see how it goes

479  
00:21:55,359 --> 00:21:59,648  
and thanks Rob and Richard for

480  
00:21:57,579 --> 00:22:02,500  
encouraging me to record this and Crill

481  
00:21:59,648 --> 00:22:04,359  
I appreciate your thoughts so reach out

482  
00:22:02,500 --> 00:22:06,190  
to me on Facebook if you're interested

483  
00:22:04,359 --> 00:22:08,439  
in anything I have mentioned or have

484  
00:22:06,190 --> 00:22:11,909  
further questions and thank you skeptics

485

00:22:08,440 --> 00:22:11,909  
on listeners we do love you

486  
00:22:13,288 --> 00:22:16,869  
now I still consider the article from

487  
00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:19,179  
Kill Alvaro

488  
00:22:16,869 --> 00:22:21,969  
to be very important and worth your time

489  
00:22:19,179 --> 00:22:24,220  
to read but it is good to get some

490  
00:22:21,970 --> 00:22:25,670  
feedback from time to time thank you rob

491  
00:22:24,220 --> 00:22:45,529  
and thank you Susan

492  
00:22:25,670 --> 00:22:47,390  
[Music]

493  
00:22:45,529 --> 00:22:50,509  
[Applause]

494  
00:22:47,390 --> 00:22:53,000  
calling all skeptics or listeners the

495  
00:22:50,509 --> 00:22:55,339  
you live end or near Glasgow or are you

496  
00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:57,558  
planning to visit something then you're

497  
00:22:55,339 --> 00:23:00,949  
in luck because the Glasgow skeptics

498  
00:22:57,558 --> 00:23:02,149  
have got your Monday nights sorted we

499  
00:23:00,950 --> 00:23:04,819

are committed to filling up every

500

00:23:02,150 --> 00:23:07,490

available Monday night talks on science

501

00:23:04,819 --> 00:23:10,039

and skepticism past speakers include

502

00:23:07,490 --> 00:23:12,259

Eugenie Scott le coin maker Marshall

503

00:23:10,039 --> 00:23:15,409

Nate Phelps Tom and Cecil from cognitive

504

00:23:12,259 --> 00:23:17,750

dissonance PZ Myers Richard Wiseman AC

505

00:23:15,410 --> 00:23:20,269

drilling Noah Heath and Eli from the

506

00:23:17,750 --> 00:23:22,548

scaling atheist Simon Singh Rebecca

507

00:23:20,269 --> 00:23:25,400

Watson and a multitude of local

508

00:23:22,548 --> 00:23:27,259

academics and skeptics there's literally

509

00:23:25,400 --> 00:23:29,360

nothing better you can do on a Monday

510

00:23:27,259 --> 00:23:31,700

night in Glasgow that doesn't involve

511

00:23:29,359 --> 00:23:33,649

taking their clothes off so come join us

512

00:23:31,700 --> 00:23:35,808

we've also got a vibrant online

513

00:23:33,650 --> 00:23:37,610

community you can find us on Facebook

514  
00:23:35,808 --> 00:23:41,089  
Twitter and get involved with the

515  
00:23:37,609 --> 00:23:42,359  
discussion glasgow skeptics self-help or

516  
00:23:41,089 --> 00:23:43,129  
your brain

517  
00:23:42,359 --> 00:23:51,399  
[Music]

518  
00:23:43,130 --> 00:23:51,400  
[Applause]

519  
00:23:51,490 --> 00:23:54,608  
[Music]

520  
00:24:02,179 --> 00:24:08,370  
now here's a report that was published

521  
00:24:05,308 --> 00:24:11,579  
in The Times newspaper on Monday the

522  
00:24:08,369 --> 00:24:14,129  
19th of March 2018 this has been brought

523  
00:24:11,579 --> 00:24:17,329  
to my attention by Michael Marshall at

524  
00:24:14,130 --> 00:24:17,330  
the good thinking Society

525  
00:24:20,450 --> 00:24:27,180  
and for hospital where the Queen's

526  
00:24:23,420 --> 00:24:29,880  
homeopathy works by Christmas health

527  
00:24:27,180 --> 00:24:32,850  
editor the hospital where the Queen's

528  
00:24:29,880 --> 00:24:35,100  
homeopathy works has been banned from

529  
00:24:32,849 --> 00:24:37,559  
offering homeopathy to the National

530  
00:24:35,099 --> 00:24:41,490  
Health Service patients for disobeying

531  
00:24:37,559 --> 00:24:44,009  
health service policy and ordered found

532  
00:24:41,490 --> 00:24:46,849  
that the Royal London Hospital for

533  
00:24:44,009 --> 00:24:49,140  
integrated medicine has been wrongly

534  
00:24:46,849 --> 00:24:51,719  
charging the alternative treatment to

535  
00:24:49,140 --> 00:24:54,330  
taxpayers the hospital is Europe's

536  
00:24:51,720 --> 00:24:55,980  
biggest publicly funded Centre for

537  
00:24:54,329 --> 00:24:58,470  
alternative medicine and has been

538  
00:24:55,980 --> 00:25:03,089  
offering homeopathy since it was founded

539  
00:24:58,470 --> 00:25:05,460  
in 18-49 the ruling will put further

540  
00:25:03,089 --> 00:25:09,299  
pressure on NHS units offering the

541  
00:25:05,460 --> 00:25:12,150  
treatment last year Simon Stephens chief

542

00:25:09,299 --> 00:25:15,960  
executive of NHS England called

543  
00:25:12,150 --> 00:25:18,600  
homeopathy quote a misuse of scarce NHS

544  
00:25:15,960 --> 00:25:20,789  
funds men quotable homeopathy uses

545  
00:25:18,599 --> 00:25:22,049  
extremely diluted remedies for which

546  
00:25:20,789 --> 00:25:24,480  
there is little evidence to support

547  
00:25:22,049 --> 00:25:25,889  
their effectiveness some skeptics

548  
00:25:24,480 --> 00:25:27,480  
acknowledge however that the

549  
00:25:25,890 --> 00:25:29,360  
conversations that alternative

550  
00:25:27,480 --> 00:25:33,360  
practitioners have with their patients

551  
00:25:29,359 --> 00:25:35,339  
often have a placebo effect NHS bosses

552  
00:25:33,359 --> 00:25:39,059  
say that cutting funding for the

553  
00:25:35,339 --> 00:25:41,699  
treatment will save 50,000 pounds a year

554  
00:25:39,059 --> 00:25:43,470  
however Peter Fisher research director

555  
00:25:41,700 --> 00:25:46,470  
of the hospital and homeopathy to the

556  
00:25:43,470 --> 00:25:49,289

Queen insists that the decision will

557

00:25:46,470 --> 00:25:52,259

cost the NHS more as doctors have to use

558

00:25:49,289 --> 00:25:54,869

more expensive medicines instead quote

559

00:25:52,259 --> 00:25:57,269

we see a huge number of patients on

560

00:25:54,869 --> 00:25:59,609

outrageous numbers of drugs end quote he

561

00:25:57,269 --> 00:26:01,589

said quote we are still not giving

562

00:25:59,609 --> 00:26:04,019

advice on diet lifestyle and

563

00:26:01,589 --> 00:26:06,299

physiological things that is what

564

00:26:04,019 --> 00:26:10,170

matters to people rather than the 15th

565

00:26:06,299 --> 00:26:12,899

drug in quote NHS bosses have previously

566

00:26:10,170 --> 00:26:15,330

told the hospital not to use homeopathy

567

00:26:12,900 --> 00:26:17,970

but an audit carried out under pressure

568

00:26:15,329 --> 00:26:20,789

from campaigners found widespread

569

00:26:17,970 --> 00:26:23,250

breaches of the policy the hospital was

570

00:26:20,789 --> 00:26:25,680

using homeopathy but not declaring it



571  
00:26:23,250 --> 00:26:28,049  
because it was part of a wider treatment

572  
00:26:25,680 --> 00:26:30,660  
which the hospital thought was permitted

573  
00:26:28,049 --> 00:26:32,759  
a handful of patients were treated only

574  
00:26:30,660 --> 00:26:34,800  
with homeopathy Michael

575  
00:26:32,759 --> 00:26:37,140  
all of the good thinking society said

576  
00:26:34,799 --> 00:26:39,930  
quote the decision to end funding for

577  
00:26:37,140 --> 00:26:42,270  
homeopathy on the NHS in London is long

578  
00:26:39,930 --> 00:26:45,360  
overdue despite what is claimed by

579  
00:26:42,269 --> 00:26:47,279  
fringe groups and outlier studies the

580  
00:26:45,359 --> 00:26:49,229  
evidence on the ineffectiveness of

581  
00:26:47,279 --> 00:26:50,639  
homeopathy has been clear for a long

582  
00:26:49,230 --> 00:26:53,039  
time end quote

583  
00:26:50,640 --> 00:26:56,009  
a spokesman for Camden Clinical

584  
00:26:53,039 --> 00:26:58,409  
Commissioning group which sets NHS

585  
00:26:56,009 --> 00:27:00,390  
funding policy for the hospital said it

586  
00:26:58,410 --> 00:27:03,029  
was quote committed to making the best

587  
00:27:00,390 --> 00:27:05,550  
use of public money and our policy is

588  
00:27:03,029 --> 00:27:07,619  
not to fund homeopathy treatment in

589  
00:27:05,549 --> 00:27:09,389  
quote the spokesman for the hospital

590  
00:27:07,619 --> 00:27:11,549  
said that there had been a quote

591  
00:27:09,390 --> 00:27:14,910  
difference of interpretation of the

592  
00:27:11,549 --> 00:27:20,549  
policy and quote and it had agreed not

593  
00:27:14,910 --> 00:27:22,050  
to provide homeopathy on the NHS again

594  
00:27:20,549 --> 00:27:24,180  
that story comes to us from The Times

595  
00:27:22,049 --> 00:27:27,960  
newspaper published on Monday the 19th

596  
00:27:24,180 --> 00:27:30,509  
of March 2018 by Chris Smyth health

597  
00:27:27,960 --> 00:27:32,730  
editor and thanks to Michael marshal for

598  
00:27:30,509 --> 00:27:40,960  
bringing this to our attention

599

00:27:32,730 --> 00:27:40,960  
[Music]

600  
00:27:44,269 --> 00:27:54,579  
[Music]

601  
00:27:49,890 --> 00:27:57,220  
last year it was my privilege to chair a

602  
00:27:54,579 --> 00:28:01,210  
panel about roadblocks to good science

603  
00:27:57,220 --> 00:28:03,190  
it was a wide-ranging panel touching on

604  
00:28:01,210 --> 00:28:06,779  
many issues but I thought I'd play you

605  
00:28:03,190 --> 00:28:10,930  
the last twenty minutes of the panel

606  
00:28:06,779 --> 00:28:13,480  
where dr. Rachel Dunlop Cara Santa Maria

607  
00:28:10,930 --> 00:28:15,940  
and Britt Hermes discussed some of the

608  
00:28:13,480 --> 00:28:23,200  
problems in science and possible

609  
00:28:15,940 --> 00:28:25,299  
solutions the ratio of an object might

610  
00:28:23,200 --> 00:28:27,640  
be higher because there's less people in

611  
00:28:25,299 --> 00:28:29,409  
the community no interesting thank you

612  
00:28:27,640 --> 00:28:42,640  
very very very much for you it's all

613  
00:28:29,410 --> 00:28:51,040

insults I'll just go back to my old

614

00:28:42,640 --> 00:28:55,120

white man club now somebody write that

615

00:28:51,039 --> 00:28:56,319

down okay well we've still got a little

616

00:28:55,119 --> 00:28:58,389

bit of time so I'd like to cover some

617

00:28:56,319 --> 00:28:59,980

other issues right now when we might

618

00:28:58,390 --> 00:29:02,380

come to think about problems in science

619

00:28:59,980 --> 00:29:04,930

and one of the biggest problems dr.

620

00:29:02,380 --> 00:29:08,830

Rachel in the last few years for us

621

00:29:04,930 --> 00:29:10,870

certainly has been fraud yeah and let's

622

00:29:08,829 --> 00:29:15,099

point the finger at Andrew Wakefield

623

00:29:10,869 --> 00:29:18,759

because he is fraud wherever he is he's

624

00:29:15,099 --> 00:29:21,639

moving to LA apparently oh yeah I just

625

00:29:18,759 --> 00:29:23,950

heard last night and apparently I think

626

00:29:21,640 --> 00:29:26,530

he's possibly gonna be starting a TV

627

00:29:23,950 --> 00:29:29,490

show on vaccine injury and so it's gonna

628  
00:29:26,529 --> 00:29:33,339  
be based in LA do you know that's like

629  
00:29:29,490 --> 00:29:36,329  
it a TV show an actual network we don't

630  
00:29:33,339 --> 00:29:36,329  
know and I can't take the

631  
00:29:41,599 --> 00:29:52,278  
[Applause]

632  
00:29:59,980 --> 00:30:10,700  
it's nice to know George has a career

633  
00:30:02,599 --> 00:30:12,109  
after educated in speaking of fraud so

634  
00:30:10,700 --> 00:30:13,400  
no I can't take the credit for this

635  
00:30:12,109 --> 00:30:15,829  
either a friend of mine has been

636  
00:30:13,400 --> 00:30:18,620  
diligently watching all the live videos

637  
00:30:15,829 --> 00:30:20,089  
out of the back store in America and she

638  
00:30:18,619 --> 00:30:21,500  
cleans that piece of information last

639  
00:30:20,089 --> 00:30:24,619  
night when he just mentioned that he's

640  
00:30:21,500 --> 00:30:27,019  
moving but to go back to fraud I mean

641  
00:30:24,619 --> 00:30:29,899  
the the the problem of publish or perish

642  
00:30:27,019 --> 00:30:31,690  
never goes away in science and if you

643  
00:30:29,900 --> 00:30:34,250  
don't know what that means basically

644  
00:30:31,690 --> 00:30:38,750  
peer-reviewed publications are currency

645  
00:30:34,250 --> 00:30:40,339  
in science they make your CV long they

646  
00:30:38,750 --> 00:30:41,839  
are the reason you'll get grants the

647  
00:30:40,339 --> 00:30:43,579  
other ways and you'll get promotions so

648  
00:30:41,839 --> 00:30:46,419  
you need to publish scientific

649  
00:30:43,579 --> 00:30:49,369  
peer-reviewed papers and that is hard

650  
00:30:46,420 --> 00:30:51,080  
particularly in the wet sciences like

651  
00:30:49,369 --> 00:30:53,299  
the ball of them really but I'm speaking

652  
00:30:51,079 --> 00:30:55,279  
from my personal experience biology

653  
00:30:53,299 --> 00:30:57,889  
never goes the way you hope it goes it

654  
00:30:55,279 --> 00:30:59,329  
never does what you ask it to do and you

655  
00:30:57,890 --> 00:31:01,370  
know I mentioned earlier that I got

656

00:30:59,329 --> 00:31:02,659  
completely different results in some of

657  
00:31:01,369 --> 00:31:04,219  
my recent experiments and what I

658  
00:31:02,660 --> 00:31:06,259  
expected

659  
00:31:04,220 --> 00:31:08,630  
but you have to somehow package that up

660  
00:31:06,259 --> 00:31:10,430  
into a nice shiny little paper so you

661  
00:31:08,630 --> 00:31:12,890  
can present it to your board to your

662  
00:31:10,430 --> 00:31:15,080  
directors to your funding bodies and so

663  
00:31:12,890 --> 00:31:17,900  
there's enormous pressure on researchers

664  
00:31:15,079 --> 00:31:19,939  
to publish and to publish often and this

665  
00:31:17,900 --> 00:31:22,100  
unfortunately leads to people cutting

666  
00:31:19,940 --> 00:31:25,549  
corners because they are so pressure to

667  
00:31:22,099 --> 00:31:28,429  
do so many of us in this room would be

668  
00:31:25,549 --> 00:31:30,769  
aware of Chris Shaw professor Chris Shaw

669  
00:31:28,430 --> 00:31:32,630  
who is a he's in the Department of

670  
00:31:30,769 --> 00:31:35,240

Ophthalmology at

671

00:31:32,630 --> 00:31:38,000

University our University in Canada and

672

00:31:35,240 --> 00:31:44,870

he publishes anti-vaccine papers all the

673

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:47,000

time and just recently it's so dumb and

674

00:31:44,869 --> 00:31:49,579

annoys me so much there's a technique

675

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:51,529

called Western blotting where you end up

676

00:31:49,579 --> 00:31:55,759

with these little bands that look like

677

00:31:51,529 --> 00:31:58,160

just a line on a paper and you know

678

00:31:55,759 --> 00:32:00,650

ultimately when you do develop it's like

679

00:31:58,160 --> 00:32:02,150

a photography development process for

680

00:32:00,650 --> 00:32:03,980

you to get that little band and

681

00:32:02,150 --> 00:32:05,960

ultimately when you do that you're going

682

00:32:03,980 --> 00:32:09,110

to get artifacts introduced like a hair

683

00:32:05,960 --> 00:32:11,690

or a dot or something but scientists

684

00:32:09,109 --> 00:32:14,419

repeatedly do this they copy and paste



685  
00:32:11,690 --> 00:32:16,820  
those bands into different experimental

686  
00:32:14,420 --> 00:32:18,230  
lanes and maybe they flip them upside

687  
00:32:16,819 --> 00:32:20,980  
down or maybe they flip them the other

688  
00:32:18,230 --> 00:32:27,950  
way but they never remove the artifacts

689  
00:32:20,980 --> 00:32:32,720  
and so it's so obvious because it's like

690  
00:32:27,950 --> 00:32:36,890  
get Photoshop out like if you're gonna

691  
00:32:32,720 --> 00:32:38,839  
cheat cheat problem and recently

692  
00:32:36,890 --> 00:32:42,350  
Christopher sure had a paper retracted

693  
00:32:38,839 --> 00:32:44,209  
for precisely that reason the bands in

694  
00:32:42,349 --> 00:32:47,599  
this case were actually polymerase chain

695  
00:32:44,210 --> 00:32:49,220  
reaction bands and you could easily see

696  
00:32:47,599 --> 00:32:50,990  
that there was these two bands one was

697  
00:32:49,220 --> 00:32:52,130  
supposed to be that untreated animals

698  
00:32:50,990 --> 00:32:54,049  
one was supposed to be the treated

699  
00:32:52,130 --> 00:32:55,400  
animals but the bands who if you flip

700  
00:32:54,049 --> 00:32:59,000  
them and turn them they were the same

701  
00:32:55,400 --> 00:33:00,650  
and so the paper got pulled and his his

702  
00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:02,299  
wrist it's actually went all over the

703  
00:33:00,650 --> 00:33:04,100  
world the reports of this because it was

704  
00:33:02,299 --> 00:33:05,720  
controversial study to begin with he was

705  
00:33:04,099 --> 00:33:09,049  
trying to claim that aluminium causes

706  
00:33:05,720 --> 00:33:10,120  
autism and he said in response well to

707  
00:33:09,049 --> 00:33:12,649  
be fair

708  
00:33:10,119 --> 00:33:14,119  
nobody zooms in on these things and

709  
00:33:12,650 --> 00:33:17,120  
looks like you know looks at the

710  
00:33:14,119 --> 00:33:19,729  
artifacts in them I'm like dude of

711  
00:33:17,119 --> 00:33:22,009  
course we do that and there are people

712  
00:33:19,730 --> 00:33:24,230  
that work in research who dedicate their

713

00:33:22,009 --> 00:33:27,829  
lives to looking for things like that

714  
00:33:24,230 --> 00:33:30,799  
and it's not very difficult if you have

715  
00:33:27,829 --> 00:33:33,919  
half a brain and then he also had said

716  
00:33:30,799 --> 00:33:36,379  
well in my defense the data the raw data

717  
00:33:33,920 --> 00:33:38,779  
has gone to China with my postdoc and

718  
00:33:36,380 --> 00:33:40,610  
that also breaches the ethics of the

719  
00:33:38,779 --> 00:33:42,200  
University you're not supposed to take

720  
00:33:40,609 --> 00:33:44,299  
data off the premises because the

721  
00:33:42,200 --> 00:33:44,740  
intellectual property belongs to the

722  
00:33:44,299 --> 00:33:47,529  
universe

723  
00:33:44,740 --> 00:33:50,500  
where it was generated and so it is a

724  
00:33:47,529 --> 00:33:52,509  
dumpster fire but this is not the first

725  
00:33:50,500 --> 00:33:55,929  
time this particular group has had

726  
00:33:52,509 --> 00:33:57,879  
papers retracted but to go back to

727  
00:33:55,929 --> 00:34:00,580

Wakefield as well and I mentioned this

728

00:33:57,880 --> 00:34:03,160  
briefly yesterday at SGU one of the

729

00:34:00,579 --> 00:34:05,409  
problems with papers that get retracted

730

00:34:03,160 --> 00:34:08,260  
for fraud is that they get cited more

731

00:34:05,410 --> 00:34:11,918  
often after they've been retracted that

732

00:34:08,260 --> 00:34:13,510  
is a real problem and you know I spend a

733

00:34:11,918 --> 00:34:15,549  
lot of time trawling the depths of the

734

00:34:13,510 --> 00:34:22,389  
anti-vaccination movement online did you

735

00:34:15,550 --> 00:34:24,879  
say trolling or trolling yeah and they

736

00:34:22,389 --> 00:34:27,610  
don't care that a papers retracted any

737

00:34:24,878 --> 00:34:29,648  
way relevant to them because they're

738

00:34:27,610 --> 00:34:32,829  
cherry-picking the data to get for their

739

00:34:29,648 --> 00:34:34,750  
confirmation bias so it's not relevant

740

00:34:32,829 --> 00:34:37,199  
to them that it's retracted that still

741

00:34:34,750 --> 00:34:40,480  
is a thing anyway

742  
00:34:37,199 --> 00:34:43,000  
but this is the problem science tries to

743  
00:34:40,480 --> 00:34:46,269  
address as best it can absolutely I mean

744  
00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:48,789  
of course scientists on the journals

745  
00:34:46,269 --> 00:34:51,190  
you know the peers who are doing the

746  
00:34:48,789 --> 00:34:53,918  
review are the ones who are pushing for

747  
00:34:51,190 --> 00:34:57,429  
these retractions within the scientific

748  
00:34:53,918 --> 00:34:59,829  
community a retracted paper is is a

749  
00:34:57,429 --> 00:35:01,659  
black box you know what I mean it's like

750  
00:34:59,829 --> 00:35:03,608  
but it's outside of the scientific

751  
00:35:01,659 --> 00:35:05,529  
community where the problem lies it's

752  
00:35:03,608 --> 00:35:07,719  
with the marketing it's with the

753  
00:35:05,530 --> 00:35:09,970  
individuals who are using these

754  
00:35:07,719 --> 00:35:11,949  
retracted and and the the bad thing is

755  
00:35:09,969 --> 00:35:13,868  
you mentioned not only does sometimes

756  
00:35:11,949 --> 00:35:17,079  
especially if it's quite a famous payer

757  
00:35:13,869 --> 00:35:19,690  
paper does it get cited more often after

758  
00:35:17,079 --> 00:35:24,130  
it's retracted but also I mean study

759  
00:35:19,690 --> 00:35:27,490  
after study show that the the retraction

760  
00:35:24,130 --> 00:35:29,650  
gets no traction right that like you

761  
00:35:27,489 --> 00:35:32,108  
know once you you can't unring a bell

762  
00:35:29,650 --> 00:35:33,820  
yeah and so once you go out there and

763  
00:35:32,108 --> 00:35:35,469  
there's a big splash with in the medium

764  
00:35:33,820 --> 00:35:37,420  
people say this is what we found this is

765  
00:35:35,469 --> 00:35:38,829  
a real effect and then later they go oh

766  
00:35:37,420 --> 00:35:41,650  
it turns out that effects not real

767  
00:35:38,829 --> 00:35:42,880  
nobody listens the retraction varied yes

768  
00:35:41,650 --> 00:35:45,490  
but there are some great organizations

769  
00:35:42,880 --> 00:35:46,990  
like retraction watch I highly recommend

770

00:35:45,489 --> 00:35:48,639  
following a retraction watch since not

771  
00:35:46,989 --> 00:35:50,618  
only do they keep their eyes out as a

772  
00:35:48,639 --> 00:35:53,079  
real public service of what he's getting

773  
00:35:50,619 --> 00:35:54,519  
retracted but they do really good public

774  
00:35:53,079 --> 00:35:55,509  
communication of science really good

775  
00:35:54,519 --> 00:35:57,550  
right around around

776  
00:35:55,510 --> 00:36:00,160  
to explain you know what's going on with

777  
00:35:57,550 --> 00:36:03,100  
that the problem is you know only nerds

778  
00:36:00,159 --> 00:36:04,989  
like us are reading yeah we could do a

779  
00:36:03,099 --> 00:36:07,690  
little bit of a better job preventing

780  
00:36:04,989 --> 00:36:09,250  
fraud in the first place yeah I mean for

781  
00:36:07,690 --> 00:36:10,840  
medical journals for example and

782  
00:36:09,250 --> 00:36:12,940  
publishing clinical trials we could do a

783  
00:36:10,840 --> 00:36:15,280  
better job making sure that the research

784  
00:36:12,940 --> 00:36:16,659

trials are registered and that the

785

00:36:15,280 --> 00:36:18,700

results have been published within the

786

00:36:16,659 --> 00:36:20,889

appropriate time frame yeah before

787

00:36:18,699 --> 00:36:23,469

you know letting the work get published

788

00:36:20,889 --> 00:36:25,059

when it comes to like our fields of

789

00:36:23,469 --> 00:36:26,619

basic science I think we could perhaps

790

00:36:25,059 --> 00:36:29,019

do a better job of making sure our

791

00:36:26,619 --> 00:36:32,199

scripts are included perhaps in the data

792

00:36:29,019 --> 00:36:34,420

set so the statistical work could be

793

00:36:32,199 --> 00:36:36,069

checked because a lot of errors get made

794

00:36:34,420 --> 00:36:38,440

here sometimes intentionally sometimes

795

00:36:36,070 --> 00:36:41,230

not intentionally but it's another way

796

00:36:38,440 --> 00:36:43,329

to check it if you have the the the

797

00:36:41,230 --> 00:36:45,219

script to look through making sure that

798

00:36:43,329 --> 00:36:48,219

the GenBank sequences or the DNA



799

00:36:45,219 --> 00:36:49,899  
sequences is actually where the

800

00:36:48,219 --> 00:36:52,899  
researcher says it is that it's actually

801

00:36:49,900 --> 00:36:55,420  
been deposited online that these these

802

00:36:52,900 --> 00:36:57,880  
little things are actually followed

803

00:36:55,420 --> 00:37:00,700  
through on because oftentimes especially

804

00:36:57,880 --> 00:37:02,410  
as a new researcher you know I'm going

805

00:37:00,699 --> 00:37:04,269  
back paper after paper after paper and

806

00:37:02,409 --> 00:37:07,119  
I'm in the method section and I'm going

807

00:37:04,269 --> 00:37:09,579  
through it and the results aren't where

808

00:37:07,119 --> 00:37:10,839  
they say they are or that the DNA

809

00:37:09,579 --> 00:37:13,659  
sequence that I'm looking for is not

810

00:37:10,840 --> 00:37:15,700  
where they said it is or I'm looking at

811

00:37:13,659 --> 00:37:17,679  
this statistical package and trying to

812

00:37:15,699 --> 00:37:19,089  
track it down and so I get halfway

813  
00:37:17,679 --> 00:37:21,909  
through and it doesn't make sense and

814  
00:37:19,090 --> 00:37:24,010  
these are easy things to check and to

815  
00:37:21,909 --> 00:37:26,230  
require steps missing you know what I

816  
00:37:24,010 --> 00:37:28,450  
mean you can't like I didn't tell you

817  
00:37:26,230 --> 00:37:30,490  
how I did this I mean how are you

818  
00:37:28,449 --> 00:37:32,469  
supposed to emulate that and you know

819  
00:37:30,489 --> 00:37:34,389  
what here's here's a thought might be

820  
00:37:32,469 --> 00:37:36,189  
unpopular because we've talked about

821  
00:37:34,389 --> 00:37:38,139  
jargon in the past and and about why

822  
00:37:36,190 --> 00:37:39,700  
jargon is important and what jargon

823  
00:37:38,139 --> 00:37:42,819  
actually is in science and the purpose

824  
00:37:39,699 --> 00:37:48,429  
that it serves but I read a recent neuro

825  
00:37:42,820 --> 00:37:50,980  
skeptic blog where individuals have gone

826  
00:37:48,429 --> 00:37:52,389  
in and looked at the readability of

827

00:37:50,980 --> 00:37:54,849  
scientific articles and they're getting

828  
00:37:52,389 --> 00:37:57,099  
worse and worse and so maybe make your

829  
00:37:54,849 --> 00:37:59,469  
paper easier to understand yeah that's

830  
00:37:57,099 --> 00:38:01,750  
right because you know what it's really

831  
00:37:59,469 --> 00:38:03,730  
hard to replicate a study if it's

832  
00:38:01,750 --> 00:38:05,559  
unnecessarily fake it takes you ten

833  
00:38:03,730 --> 00:38:07,030  
times to read this paper before you even

834  
00:38:05,559 --> 00:38:08,679  
understand what's going on

835  
00:38:07,030 --> 00:38:11,230  
I have a bugbear about this thing called

836  
00:38:08,679 --> 00:38:13,899  
self plagiarize ation in yes it drives

837  
00:38:11,230 --> 00:38:15,400  
me insane so I understand that you can't

838  
00:38:13,900 --> 00:38:17,619  
plagiarize that's fine

839  
00:38:15,400 --> 00:38:19,360  
but in the methods section of a paper

840  
00:38:17,619 --> 00:38:21,069  
you're supposed to describe your

841  
00:38:19,360 --> 00:38:23,349

experiments to enough detail that

842

00:38:21,070 --> 00:38:26,170

someone else can reproduce them and if

843

00:38:23,349 --> 00:38:28,179

you do the same methods often you cannot

844

00:38:26,170 --> 00:38:30,309

copy and paste that into the next into

845

00:38:28,179 --> 00:38:31,839

your recent publication and I had an

846

00:38:30,309 --> 00:38:33,880

experience recently what I wanted to

847

00:38:31,840 --> 00:38:35,800

find someone's method and I had to go

848

00:38:33,880 --> 00:38:37,510

back to like six or seven of their

849

00:38:35,800 --> 00:38:40,240

previous publications because they said

850

00:38:37,510 --> 00:38:45,940

as described previously got there as

851

00:38:40,239 --> 00:38:49,479

described previously okay at a book

852

00:38:45,940 --> 00:38:51,760

chapter that was in a library in I don't

853

00:38:49,480 --> 00:38:59,280

know some I couldn't access it some like

854

00:38:51,760 --> 00:39:02,470

1978 you know it's like out of French I

855

00:38:59,280 --> 00:39:04,990

wanted to just add quickly on the on the

856  
00:39:02,469 --> 00:39:08,619  
topic of public or parish that predatory

857  
00:39:04,989 --> 00:39:12,159  
publishing now has become a huge area of

858  
00:39:08,619 --> 00:39:14,199  
grey literature where basically

859  
00:39:12,159 --> 00:39:16,599  
companies are popping up all over the

860  
00:39:14,199 --> 00:39:18,699  
place taking advantage of the fact that

861  
00:39:16,599 --> 00:39:21,219  
scientists have this huge pressure to

862  
00:39:18,699 --> 00:39:23,919  
publish and setting up basically fake

863  
00:39:21,219 --> 00:39:26,139  
journals where they'll say if you pay me

864  
00:39:23,920 --> 00:39:28,450  
300 bucks I'll publish your paper and

865  
00:39:26,139 --> 00:39:30,849  
you'll get it within a week and there's

866  
00:39:28,449 --> 00:39:32,559  
gonna be no peer review except they

867  
00:39:30,849 --> 00:39:34,839  
don't always overtly save it but don't

868  
00:39:32,559 --> 00:39:36,460  
say that no they don't you know a young

869  
00:39:34,840 --> 00:39:38,800  
researcher might not even know no they

870  
00:39:36,460 --> 00:39:41,019  
don't and there is a company that has

871  
00:39:38,800 --> 00:39:43,750  
turned this into a huge industry now

872  
00:39:41,019 --> 00:39:46,989  
which has translated into conferences

873  
00:39:43,750 --> 00:39:48,639  
where they will look at conferences in a

874  
00:39:46,989 --> 00:39:51,909  
particular area of expertise they'll

875  
00:39:48,639 --> 00:39:53,679  
change the title of their slightly but

876  
00:39:51,909 --> 00:39:55,750  
not enough that you might notice it's

877  
00:39:53,679 --> 00:39:57,669  
not this party prestigious conference

878  
00:39:55,750 --> 00:40:00,280  
and then they'll just take BIOS and

879  
00:39:57,670 --> 00:40:02,470  
photos of scientists who are prestigious

880  
00:40:00,280 --> 00:40:04,360  
in the area put them on a website and

881  
00:40:02,469 --> 00:40:07,149  
say car is speaking at this conference

882  
00:40:04,360 --> 00:40:10,180  
but they haven't asked you and they even

883  
00:40:07,150 --> 00:40:11,740  
told you and so if you find yourself on

884

00:40:10,179 --> 00:40:13,659  
this website and you email them and say

885  
00:40:11,739 --> 00:40:15,799  
please remove me I'm not involved in

886  
00:40:13,659 --> 00:40:17,899  
this they won't do that either

887  
00:40:15,800 --> 00:40:20,810  
and then they'll charge \$3,000 for you

888  
00:40:17,900 --> 00:40:22,789  
to turn up to a fake conference and one

889  
00:40:20,809 --> 00:40:25,940  
of the things that I find so frustrating

890  
00:40:22,789 --> 00:40:28,369  
about that is that academics are so

891  
00:40:25,940 --> 00:40:30,380  
shrugging about it yeah I think David

892  
00:40:28,369 --> 00:40:33,589  
Gorski maybe invented the term shrug ii

893  
00:40:30,380 --> 00:40:35,630  
but i found when i was in the university

894  
00:40:33,590 --> 00:40:37,880  
system that i would say okay the dean of

895  
00:40:35,630 --> 00:40:40,430  
research here you need to stand up in

896  
00:40:37,880 --> 00:40:43,970  
front of all the academics and warn them

897  
00:40:40,429 --> 00:40:46,399  
of these specific operations and what

898  
00:40:43,969 --> 00:40:47,779

they do and tell them not to publish

899

00:40:46,400 --> 00:40:56,750

their do not go to their conferences

900

00:40:47,780 --> 00:40:59,870

they like to heavily in the sciences on

901

00:40:56,750 --> 00:41:00,800

our understanding of the big picture and

902

00:40:59,869 --> 00:41:03,829

so we're like well science is

903

00:41:00,800 --> 00:41:05,990

self-correcting yeah and like eventually

904

00:41:03,829 --> 00:41:07,969

enough people are going to try and

905

00:41:05,989 --> 00:41:10,879

replicate better but the problem is it's

906

00:41:07,969 --> 00:41:13,639

only like that if we are active exactly

907

00:41:10,880 --> 00:41:15,619

do it yeah and relying on somebody else

908

00:41:13,639 --> 00:41:17,750

to do the work is a recipe for disaster

909

00:41:15,619 --> 00:41:20,000

especially because there's something

910

00:41:17,750 --> 00:41:22,309

good about science becoming very spread

911

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:23,869

out you know it's no longer monolithic

912

00:41:22,309 --> 00:41:25,489

which is a wonderful thing but when it



913  
00:41:23,869 --> 00:41:27,980  
becomes so spread out that studies are

914  
00:41:25,489 --> 00:41:29,629  
never replicated yeah when it becomes so

915  
00:41:27,980 --> 00:41:31,969  
spread out that nobody is ever talking

916  
00:41:29,630 --> 00:41:35,240  
to one another anymore then what you end

917  
00:41:31,969 --> 00:41:37,009  
up with is no checks and balances and no

918  
00:41:35,239 --> 00:41:39,319  
self correction within science and just

919  
00:41:37,010 --> 00:41:41,450  
a flood of information and no way to

920  
00:41:39,320 --> 00:41:43,400  
know what is legitimate and what's not

921  
00:41:41,449 --> 00:41:45,230  
because we're just assuming that because

922  
00:41:43,400 --> 00:41:46,789  
these people are professionals they

923  
00:41:45,230 --> 00:41:48,740  
don't make mistakes there's a big

924  
00:41:46,789 --> 00:41:52,279  
difference between overt intentional

925  
00:41:48,739 --> 00:41:55,129  
fraud and kind of under the radar

926  
00:41:52,280 --> 00:41:57,110  
mistakes that are made but the outcome

927  
00:41:55,130 --> 00:41:59,900  
often is the same and we have to

928  
00:41:57,110 --> 00:42:02,480  
remember that yeah absolutely really is

929  
00:41:59,900 --> 00:42:04,849  
there a collection that lists or

930  
00:42:02,480 --> 00:42:06,650  
someplace that we can go that has a list

931  
00:42:04,849 --> 00:42:08,690  
of the predatory journals so I'm often

932  
00:42:06,650 --> 00:42:10,130  
looking yeah to figure it out but I

933  
00:42:08,690 --> 00:42:12,409  
don't know where to go retraction watch

934  
00:42:10,130 --> 00:42:14,390  
which is what Kara mentioned so there

935  
00:42:12,409 --> 00:42:16,579  
used to be a librarian called Jeffrey

936  
00:42:14,389 --> 00:42:18,170  
Beale and he would curate a list of

937  
00:42:16,579 --> 00:42:19,549  
credit to publishers and it just kept

938  
00:42:18,170 --> 00:42:21,650  
getting longer and longer and longer and

939  
00:42:19,550 --> 00:42:23,960  
then one day his list disappeared from

940  
00:42:21,650 --> 00:42:26,420  
the internet and he went dark and it

941

00:42:23,960 --> 00:42:28,260  
went dark and nobody knows why if unless

942  
00:42:26,420 --> 00:42:30,090  
anyone has an update

943  
00:42:28,260 --> 00:42:32,700  
in the audience so it's been mirrored

944  
00:42:30,090 --> 00:42:34,860  
now by retraction watch so retraction

945  
00:42:32,699 --> 00:42:37,679  
watch has a list of predatory publishers

946  
00:42:34,860 --> 00:42:39,510  
that they try to update and it just

947  
00:42:37,679 --> 00:42:41,669  
keeps getting longer and longer

948  
00:42:39,510 --> 00:42:44,370  
but yeah a look-in retraction watch

949  
00:42:41,670 --> 00:42:45,840  
that's good advice I do like letting you

950  
00:42:44,369 --> 00:42:48,900  
things like that along the way in that

951  
00:42:45,840 --> 00:42:50,700  
these sessions well folks as Carl Sagan

952  
00:42:48,900 --> 00:42:53,700  
said and I remind you once more the

953  
00:42:50,699 --> 00:42:56,099  
method of science is tried and true it

954  
00:42:53,699 --> 00:42:58,439  
is not perfect but it's the best we have

955  
00:42:56,099 --> 00:43:01,650

in the couple of minutes we have

956

00:42:58,440 --> 00:43:04,079  
remaining to us spitballing I guess

957

00:43:01,650 --> 00:43:06,030  
you'd say what can we do to improve the

958

00:43:04,079 --> 00:43:09,480  
general method of science or the

959

00:43:06,030 --> 00:43:11,880  
problems it faces Rachel I think that we

960

00:43:09,480 --> 00:43:13,349  
should work closely with media and we've

961

00:43:11,880 --> 00:43:15,930  
had a lot of success doing this in

962

00:43:13,349 --> 00:43:20,699  
Australia as scientists because media is

963

00:43:15,929 --> 00:43:22,980  
out there are a mouthpiece and they are

964

00:43:20,699 --> 00:43:24,929  
often accused of badly translating

965

00:43:22,980 --> 00:43:28,469  
science and writing bad articles and

966

00:43:24,929 --> 00:43:30,389  
that's our fault we need to deal with

967

00:43:28,469 --> 00:43:33,269  
them well we need to work with them

968

00:43:30,389 --> 00:43:34,980  
because if we want people to understand

969

00:43:33,269 --> 00:43:36,809  
what we do if we want to attract public

970  
00:43:34,980 --> 00:43:39,480  
funding we want our work to be

971  
00:43:36,809 --> 00:43:42,119  
communicated well and so we try to do

972  
00:43:39,480 --> 00:43:44,010  
that in Australia the other thing that I

973  
00:43:42,119 --> 00:43:45,420  
think is really known very well in this

974  
00:43:44,010 --> 00:43:48,660  
country is the website called the

975  
00:43:45,420 --> 00:43:51,059  
conversation and this is an academic

976  
00:43:48,659 --> 00:43:52,920  
website where if you have a position in

977  
00:43:51,059 --> 00:43:56,250  
a in an academic institution you can

978  
00:43:52,920 --> 00:43:57,840  
write articles for them in consultation

979  
00:43:56,250 --> 00:44:00,179  
with an editor so that will help you to

980  
00:43:57,840 --> 00:44:02,280  
structure it it's usually only 800 words

981  
00:44:00,179 --> 00:44:08,009  
and it's it's got a Creative Commons

982  
00:44:02,280 --> 00:44:10,800  
license on it it's picked up by whoever

983  
00:44:08,010 --> 00:44:12,480  
wants to republish it and you only have

984  
00:44:10,800 --> 00:44:14,700  
to write one article and then that you

985  
00:44:12,480 --> 00:44:16,019  
can see it go viral potentially so

986  
00:44:14,699 --> 00:44:18,089  
that's such a great way to get your

987  
00:44:16,019 --> 00:44:22,380  
science out to the public I think that's

988  
00:44:18,090 --> 00:44:23,250  
good I think that you know it's it's

989  
00:44:22,380 --> 00:44:25,410  
hard to solve all these problems

990  
00:44:23,250 --> 00:44:27,210  
individually and I think that we could

991  
00:44:25,409 --> 00:44:29,219  
put a bunch of band-aids in different

992  
00:44:27,210 --> 00:44:31,230  
places and we can say you know you need

993  
00:44:29,219 --> 00:44:33,359  
to be more responsible as a scientist or

994  
00:44:31,230 --> 00:44:35,340  
we need to be better about communicators

995  
00:44:33,360 --> 00:44:36,809  
all these things are important but I do

996  
00:44:35,340 --> 00:44:40,170  
think that something that's more kind of

997  
00:44:36,809 --> 00:44:41,710  
central and fundamental is that as an

998

00:44:40,170 --> 00:44:45,039  
educational approach

999  
00:44:41,710 --> 00:44:47,230  
I personally believe that we need more

1000  
00:44:45,039 --> 00:44:49,150  
ethics education and we need more

1001  
00:44:47,230 --> 00:44:51,789  
philosophy education yeah within the

1002  
00:44:49,150 --> 00:44:53,858  
sciences yeah and if more individual

1003  
00:44:51,789 --> 00:44:55,900  
scientists but also individuals who

1004  
00:44:53,858 --> 00:44:58,289  
don't study science at all just people

1005  
00:44:55,900 --> 00:45:00,849  
who go through college are are

1006  
00:44:58,289 --> 00:45:03,579  
well-versed in basic philosophy and

1007  
00:45:00,849 --> 00:45:06,160  
basic ethics that could go a long way

1008  
00:45:03,579 --> 00:45:08,230  
yeah yeah 100 percent agreement right

1009  
00:45:06,159 --> 00:45:12,219  
you have a rather interesting

1010  
00:45:08,230 --> 00:45:13,750  
perspective on all this I know yeah well

1011  
00:45:12,219 --> 00:45:15,759  
I I have different ideas sort of

1012  
00:45:13,750 --> 00:45:18,489

floating through my head you know on on

1013

00:45:15,760 --> 00:45:20,800

a global scale I think we have to get I

1014

00:45:18,489 --> 00:45:24,219

would like to see more physicians

1015

00:45:20,800 --> 00:45:26,380

involved actually and and at an earlier

1016

00:45:24,219 --> 00:45:29,259

level so at the medical school level and

1017

00:45:26,380 --> 00:45:31,180

I'm really fortunate in that I have a

1018

00:45:29,260 --> 00:45:33,010

bit of a younger audience so I have a

1019

00:45:31,179 --> 00:45:36,279

lot of people in med school reaching out

1020

00:45:33,010 --> 00:45:38,770

to me to get advice from me about how to

1021

00:45:36,280 --> 00:45:41,260

talk to their patients and future

1022

00:45:38,769 --> 00:45:44,949

patients about alternative medicine but

1023

00:45:41,260 --> 00:45:46,810

what I was going to say was that I think

1024

00:45:44,949 --> 00:45:48,549

we should start having start practicing

1025

00:45:46,809 --> 00:45:50,139

difficult conversations with people who

1026

00:45:48,550 --> 00:45:53,710

are close to us in our lives



1027  
00:45:50,139 --> 00:45:56,940  
so I study evolutionary genomics and I

1028  
00:45:53,710 --> 00:45:59,949  
was able to successfully explain my

1029  
00:45:56,940 --> 00:46:02,470  
research and the point of my research to

1030  
00:45:59,949 --> 00:46:06,129  
family members who are fundamental

1031  
00:46:02,469 --> 00:46:07,868  
Christians Wow and we had a very lovely

1032  
00:46:06,130 --> 00:46:09,309  
conversation and everyone stayed

1033  
00:46:07,869 --> 00:46:11,980  
respectful and this is a difficult thing

1034  
00:46:09,309 --> 00:46:15,489  
to do but I think this is a good it was

1035  
00:46:11,980 --> 00:46:16,838  
a safe place for me to start maybe it's

1036  
00:46:15,489 --> 00:46:18,159  
not always safe for people to start

1037  
00:46:16,838 --> 00:46:20,259  
talking about this stuff within their

1038  
00:46:18,159 --> 00:46:22,598  
family but it was a good place to start

1039  
00:46:20,260 --> 00:46:24,400  
to try to figure out how to have these

1040  
00:46:22,599 --> 00:46:26,619  
conversations with people who are very

1041  
00:46:24,400 --> 00:46:28,150  
different than me and have a very

1042  
00:46:26,619 --> 00:46:30,280  
different background in a very different

1043  
00:46:28,150 --> 00:46:32,320  
ideology than me and I think the better

1044  
00:46:30,280 --> 00:46:33,820  
that we can get at having these

1045  
00:46:32,320 --> 00:46:36,609  
difficult conversations from people from

1046  
00:46:33,820 --> 00:46:37,809  
all walks of life the better that we are

1047  
00:46:36,608 --> 00:46:39,369  
going to be as a group the more

1048  
00:46:37,809 --> 00:46:45,429  
successful we're going to be as a group

1049  
00:46:39,369 --> 00:46:46,960  
will continue to grow and and I think

1050  
00:46:45,429 --> 00:46:50,579  
the future and the outlook is going to

1051  
00:46:46,960 --> 00:46:52,929  
be much more successful for us and much

1052  
00:46:50,579 --> 00:46:54,480  
much better for us in the end if we can

1053  
00:46:52,929 --> 00:46:56,759  
learn to have these respectful come

1054  
00:46:54,480 --> 00:46:58,469  
sessions I think you're right the fact

1055

00:46:56,760 --> 00:47:00,240  
that we acknowledge if there are so many

1056  
00:46:58,469 --> 00:47:02,399  
problems in science can only be a good

1057  
00:47:00,239 --> 00:47:04,500  
thing that we can address the problems

1058  
00:47:02,400 --> 00:47:06,030  
once we identify them ladies and

1059  
00:47:04,500 --> 00:47:08,400  
gentlemen what an honor it's been to

1060  
00:47:06,030 --> 00:47:10,619  
share the stage with such August company

1061  
00:47:08,400 --> 00:47:13,510  
would you think dr. Rachael Dunlop Cara

1062  
00:47:10,619 --> 00:47:16,480  
Santa Maria and be happy

1063  
00:47:13,510 --> 00:47:20,780  
[Applause]

1064  
00:47:16,480 --> 00:47:23,519  
[Music]

1065  
00:47:20,780 --> 00:47:26,670  
thank you to dr. Rachael Dunlop Cara

1066  
00:47:23,519 --> 00:47:29,909  
Santa Maria and Britt Hermes for your

1067  
00:47:26,670 --> 00:47:31,980  
insights into some of the problems in

1068  
00:47:29,909 --> 00:47:35,940  
science and again you can see the full

1069  
00:47:31,980 --> 00:47:50,889

panel discussion links in the show notes

1070

00:47:35,940 --> 00:47:50,889

[Music]

1071

00:47:57,409 --> 00:48:01,920

thank you for listening to the skeptic

1072

00:47:59,849 --> 00:48:09,659

zone and oh yes

1073

00:48:01,920 --> 00:48:16,010

what's this opens the window another

1074

00:48:09,659 --> 00:48:18,089

plane flying over there's people who

1075

00:48:16,010 --> 00:48:21,030

regularly listen to the skeptic zone

1076

00:48:18,090 --> 00:48:25,559

know that if I record my introduction

1077

00:48:21,030 --> 00:48:25,980

pieces and the end piece on a Sunday

1078

00:48:25,559 --> 00:48:29,309

morning

1079

00:48:25,980 --> 00:48:31,019

it's the flight path time in Sydney know

1080

00:48:29,309 --> 00:48:32,549

that the cats care now I promised you

1081

00:48:31,019 --> 00:48:35,369

the dice game all right here we go

1082

00:48:32,550 --> 00:48:38,370

we'll start with six gonna roll the

1083

00:48:35,369 --> 00:48:42,059

six-sided dice now if I keep using the

1084  
00:48:38,369 --> 00:48:44,460  
word dice why I should say die just just

1085  
00:48:42,059 --> 00:48:46,500  
put up with it here we go six so use

1086  
00:48:44,460 --> 00:48:51,630  
your psychic predicting power I'm

1087  
00:48:46,500 --> 00:48:55,440  
rolling a six and it's come up with six

1088  
00:48:51,630 --> 00:48:58,559  
there we go now move up to the ten sided

1089  
00:48:55,440 --> 00:49:02,000  
here we go ready predict away ten sided

1090  
00:48:58,559 --> 00:49:02,000  
what do you predict it's going to be

1091  
00:49:02,300 --> 00:49:09,210  
four that's the next number along I move

1092  
00:49:07,019 --> 00:49:09,570  
up now to the thirty sided dice here we

1093  
00:49:09,210 --> 00:49:14,639  
go

1094  
00:49:09,570 --> 00:49:20,150  
thirty sided would be a low number our

1095  
00:49:14,639 --> 00:49:23,069  
high number crunch-crunch-crunch nine

1096  
00:49:20,150 --> 00:49:28,710  
finally and it's quite an amazing thing

1097  
00:49:23,070 --> 00:49:34,170  
this sixty sided dice here we go rolls

1098  
00:49:28,710 --> 00:49:36,869  
to a slow stop on six that's interesting

1099  
00:49:34,170 --> 00:49:40,880  
so well I had to come up on something so

1100  
00:49:36,869 --> 00:49:43,859  
the numbers are six four nine and six

1101  
00:49:40,880 --> 00:49:46,950  
how did you do and if you got all four

1102  
00:49:43,860 --> 00:49:49,829  
numbers right you beat odds of about a

1103  
00:49:46,949 --> 00:49:51,929  
hundred and eight thousand to one well

1104  
00:49:49,829 --> 00:49:54,779  
done coming up on next week's show

1105  
00:49:51,929 --> 00:49:57,599  
probably some UFOs I think I'm going to

1106  
00:49:54,780 --> 00:50:02,190  
be meeting with my good friend dr. Steve

1107  
00:49:57,599 --> 00:50:04,019  
Roberts one of the skeptics UFO expert

1108  
00:50:02,190 --> 00:50:05,369  
oh and he always says how can you be an

1109  
00:50:04,019 --> 00:50:06,989  
expert in something that doesn't exist

1110  
00:50:05,369 --> 00:50:08,449  
or probably doesn't exist of course

1111  
00:50:06,989 --> 00:50:10,788  
would we say UFO

1112

00:50:08,449 --> 00:50:13,699  
with a general population understand

1113  
00:50:10,789 --> 00:50:15,410  
that to mean alien spaceship not really

1114  
00:50:13,699 --> 00:50:18,230  
unidentified flying object

1115  
00:50:15,409 --> 00:50:20,088  
the popular in the popular imagination

1116  
00:50:18,230 --> 00:50:23,059  
I'm sure if you said to anybody have you

1117  
00:50:20,088 --> 00:50:24,768  
seen a UFO alien spaceship is the thing

1118  
00:50:23,059 --> 00:50:27,079  
they think about anyway I'm going to be

1119  
00:50:24,768 --> 00:50:29,268  
visiting dr. Steve Roberts and I'm sure

1120  
00:50:27,079 --> 00:50:31,430  
that topic will come up in fact I'm

1121  
00:50:29,268 --> 00:50:33,768  
spending some time in Melbourne Victoria

1122  
00:50:31,429 --> 00:50:36,679  
to go to this State Library of Victoria

1123  
00:50:33,768 --> 00:50:38,838  
to continue my research into the great

1124  
00:50:36,679 --> 00:50:41,838  
prediction project now this is going

1125  
00:50:38,838 --> 00:50:44,989  
into its second year where I'm collating

1126  
00:50:41,838 --> 00:50:48,798

every published psychic prediction I can

1127

00:50:44,989 --> 00:50:53,209

find made in Australia since the year

1128

00:50:48,798 --> 00:50:54,829

2000 it's quite an undertaking and there

1129

00:50:53,210 --> 00:50:58,190

are hundreds and hundreds of predictions

1130

00:50:54,829 --> 00:51:01,660

to find and then put into spreadsheets

1131

00:50:58,190 --> 00:51:05,450

and then the laborious part is really

1132

00:51:01,659 --> 00:51:06,618

checking them some are too vague some

1133

00:51:05,449 --> 00:51:10,038

contradict each other

1134

00:51:06,619 --> 00:51:11,720

most the wrong some are right which you

1135

00:51:10,039 --> 00:51:13,460

would expect anyway given enough

1136

00:51:11,719 --> 00:51:15,709

predictions but it's a fascinating

1137

00:51:13,460 --> 00:51:18,889

project and I think I have alluded to

1138

00:51:15,710 --> 00:51:22,309

this before I might need help and if I

1139

00:51:18,889 --> 00:51:24,528

do it might be your opportunity to help

1140

00:51:22,309 --> 00:51:26,690

along the way we'll see we'll see and



1141  
00:51:24,528 --> 00:51:29,179  
before I go I remind that I do

1142  
00:51:26,690 --> 00:51:31,389  
appreciate the sponsors of the skeptic

1143  
00:51:29,179 --> 00:51:33,858  
zone and I don't take paid advertising

1144  
00:51:31,389 --> 00:51:35,980  
and what I mean by that is people like

1145  
00:51:33,858 --> 00:51:38,509  
you listening to the show who contribute

1146  
00:51:35,980 --> 00:51:42,108  
sometimes a dollar a week at \$2 a week

1147  
00:51:38,509 --> 00:51:45,619  
\$5 \$20 a week via patreon or PayPal at

1148  
00:51:42,108 --> 00:51:49,848  
skeptics and TV and as I like to remind

1149  
00:51:45,619 --> 00:51:52,068  
you it's because of people like you that

1150  
00:51:49,849 --> 00:51:54,769  
everybody gets to enjoy well I hope

1151  
00:51:52,068 --> 00:51:56,750  
enjoy the skeptics urn but until next

1152  
00:51:54,768 --> 00:52:00,639  
week this is Richard Saunders signing

1153  
00:51:56,750 --> 00:52:00,639  
off from Sydney Australia

1154  
00:52:02,739 --> 00:52:08,149  
you've been listening to the skeptic

1155  
00:52:05,239 --> 00:52:14,839  
zone podcast please visit our website at

1156  
00:52:08,150 --> 00:52:18,340  
wwlp.com tax and to access the bat

1157  
00:52:14,840 --> 00:52:21,019  
catalog of episodes going back to 2008

1158  
00:52:18,340 --> 00:52:24,289  
you can follow the skeptic zone podcast

1159  
00:52:21,019 --> 00:52:26,570  
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1160  
00:52:24,289 --> 00:52:27,460  
facebook page or leave a review on

1161  
00:52:26,570 --> 00:52:30,140  
itunes

1162  
00:52:27,460 --> 00:52:33,530  
you can also support the skeptic zone

1163  
00:52:30,139 --> 00:52:36,250  
via patreon or PayPal the skeptic zone

1164  
00:52:33,530 --> 00:52:38,630  
podcast is an independent production

1165  
00:52:36,250 --> 00:52:40,760  
reviews and opinions expressed on the

1166  
00:52:38,630 --> 00:52:43,099  
skeptic zone are not necessarily those

1167  
00:52:40,760 --> 00:52:44,940  
of Australian skeptics or any other

1168  
00:52:43,099 --> 00:52:51,380  
skeptical organisation

1169

00:52:44,940 --> 00:52:51,380  
[Music]