

**THE
SKEPTIC
ZONE
PODCAST**

www.skepticzone.tv

1
00:00:22,520 --> 00:00:09,090
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2
00:00:29,040 --> 00:00:25,050
hello and welcome to the skeptics iron

3
00:00:31,710 --> 00:00:29,050
episode number 414 for the 22nd of sep

4
00:00:33,900 --> 00:00:31,720
tember 2016 Richardson is here with you

5
00:00:35,910 --> 00:00:33,910
from Sydney Australia and now you don't

6
00:00:37,830 --> 00:00:35,920
have to check your clocks or make sure

7
00:00:39,840 --> 00:00:37,840
you haven't fallen backwards into some

8
00:00:43,619 --> 00:00:39,850
sort of weird time warp and ended up in

9
00:00:46,380 --> 00:00:43,629
the future the skeptic zone is early

10
00:00:48,810 --> 00:00:46,390
normally comes out on the weekend as you

11
00:00:52,259 --> 00:00:48,820
know this week is coming out early to

12
00:00:54,690 --> 00:00:52,269
help to help our friend Ben Goldacre who

13
00:00:58,049 --> 00:00:54,700

is currently touring australia and new

14

00:01:01,319 --> 00:00:58,059

zealand and those people in Brisbane he

15

00:01:04,260 --> 00:01:01,329

is appearing tonight tonight you have

16

00:01:05,960 --> 00:01:04,270

time to get tickets to see Ben Goldacre

17

00:01:08,430 --> 00:01:05,970

coming up at the top of the show an

18

00:01:11,070 --> 00:01:08,440

interview with Ben Goldacre a couple of

19

00:01:13,499 --> 00:01:11,080

days ago here in Sydney I met up with a

20

00:01:16,609 --> 00:01:13,509

man at last been wanting to meet been

21

00:01:18,690 --> 00:01:16,619

for many years and we had a good chat

22

00:01:21,389 --> 00:01:18,700

it's interesting Ben what are

23

00:01:23,400 --> 00:01:21,399

interesting man barriers he likes to say

24

00:01:25,350 --> 00:01:23,410

he's an equal-opportunity quack buster

25

00:01:27,359 --> 00:01:25,360

in other words he doesn't confine

26

00:01:29,460 --> 00:01:27,369

himself to the outrageous claims and

27

00:01:32,280 --> 00:01:29,470

foolery of quacks and sharks and

28

00:01:35,490 --> 00:01:32,290

charlatans he also applies his critical

29

00:01:37,700 --> 00:01:35,500

thinking to a much broader scope really

30

00:01:40,679 --> 00:01:37,710

to pharmaceutical companies and other

31

00:01:43,679 --> 00:01:40,689

people who sadly from time to time

32

00:01:45,300 --> 00:01:43,689

indulge in dodgy science find out more

33

00:01:47,390 --> 00:01:45,310

in a couple of minutes with that my

34

00:01:50,280 --> 00:01:47,400

interview with Ben Goldacre and

35

00:01:52,260 --> 00:01:50,290

information also there about how you too

36

00:01:56,130 --> 00:01:52,270

can get to see him in Brisbane or

37

00:01:58,289 --> 00:01:56,140

Melbourne Auckland and Sydney following

38

00:02:01,530 --> 00:01:58,299

that it's our reporter shelly stock and

39

00:02:03,569 --> 00:02:01,540

with a piece about dr. google now this

40

00:02:07,440 --> 00:02:03,579

is something of course dr. HC a long

41

00:02:12,199 --> 00:02:07,450

time and noted reporter tackles shelly

42

00:02:15,479 --> 00:02:12,209

will bring us um her angles her view on

43

00:02:17,190 --> 00:02:15,489

dr. Google should you google dr. Google

44

00:02:20,509 --> 00:02:17,200

then to round off the show another

45

00:02:23,190 --> 00:02:20,519

report with the help of our friend

46

00:02:25,920 --> 00:02:23,200

reasonable Hank at the reasonable Hank

47

00:02:29,910 --> 00:02:25,930

blog and if you haven't checked out that

48

00:02:34,530 --> 00:02:29,920

blog you should because in the past week

49

00:02:36,539 --> 00:02:34,540

news came to us of a film

50

00:02:40,830 --> 00:02:36,549

of all in the state of Victoria who have

51
00:02:43,410 --> 00:02:40,840
slated the movie vax to be shown early

52
00:02:46,140 --> 00:02:43,420
next month I think needless to say this

53
00:02:48,660 --> 00:02:46,150
has caused great concern amongst her

54
00:02:52,380 --> 00:02:48,670
many members of the community we were

55
00:02:55,080 --> 00:02:52,390
contacted by somebody who was very

56
00:02:57,960 --> 00:02:55,090
concerned about this I help spread the

57
00:03:01,050 --> 00:02:57,970
word and pretty soon pretty soon

58
00:03:03,420 --> 00:03:01,060
reasonable Hank got onto the job and he

59
00:03:05,849 --> 00:03:03,430
and his team have uncovered some very

60
00:03:09,509 --> 00:03:05,859
disturbing information about that whole

61
00:03:11,009 --> 00:03:09,519
sorry affair but find out more towards

62
00:03:14,879 --> 00:03:11,019
the end of the show where we will be

63
00:03:18,300 --> 00:03:14,889

reporting about the proposed viewing

64

00:03:20,909 --> 00:03:18,310

those screening of the movie vax to next

65

00:03:23,550 --> 00:03:20,919

month here in Australia now let me bring

66

00:03:26,460 --> 00:03:23,560

up a bit of music here oh yes that's

67

00:03:28,830 --> 00:03:26,470

just that's just delightful if you

68

00:03:30,179 --> 00:03:28,840

haven't heard the Blue Castle podcast it

69

00:03:32,520 --> 00:03:30,189

might be of interest to you there's a

70

00:03:36,240 --> 00:03:32,530

link right on the homepage at skeptic

71

00:03:38,490 --> 00:03:36,250

zone TV now this is a podcast put out by

72

00:03:40,649 --> 00:03:38,500

my very own sisters and I'm very proud

73

00:03:44,699 --> 00:03:40,659

that I've done this and this is all

74

00:03:47,240 --> 00:03:44,709

about artistic women in Sydney who have

75

00:03:50,699 --> 00:03:47,250

made a business out of their artistic

76

00:03:53,339 --> 00:03:50,709

talents and skills nothing to do with

77

00:03:54,809 --> 00:03:53,349

skepticism but since it's my sisters I'm

78

00:03:57,390 --> 00:03:54,819

not allowed to promote it the Blue

79

00:03:59,219 --> 00:03:57,400

Castle podcast I think it will be of

80

00:04:03,119 --> 00:03:59,229

interest to many people check it out at

81

00:04:04,649 --> 00:04:03,129

skeptic zone TV I'm looking forward to

82

00:04:06,390 --> 00:04:04,659

meeting some skeptics and fans and

83

00:04:09,469 --> 00:04:06,400

others at the Australian skeptics dinner

84

00:04:11,610 --> 00:04:09,479

meeting with Lynn Kelly the noted author

85

00:04:13,409 --> 00:04:11,620

and I don't know if there are still

86

00:04:14,699 --> 00:04:13,419

tickets available but those people in

87

00:04:17,729 --> 00:04:14,709

Sydney if you're quick and go to

88

00:04:21,990 --> 00:04:17,739

skeptics condo day you you may be able

89

00:04:23,969 --> 00:04:22,000

to snap some up also this Saturday zone

90

00:04:27,170 --> 00:04:23,979

reporter Maynard and I and a couple of

91

00:04:29,490 --> 00:04:27,180

friends will be heading out to a

92

00:04:32,270 --> 00:04:29,500

paranormal convention for a couple of

93

00:04:35,339 --> 00:04:32,280

hours to do some interviews and

94

00:04:37,200 --> 00:04:35,349

reporting it's always a lot of fun i do

95

00:04:39,420 --> 00:04:37,210

enjoy going to paranormal conventions

96

00:04:41,480 --> 00:04:39,430

well maybe they should all be simply

97

00:04:44,100 --> 00:04:41,490

reabeled claims of the paranormal

98

00:04:45,870 --> 00:04:44,110

conventions maybe whenever you hear the

99

00:04:48,420 --> 00:04:45,880

word paranormal maybe if you put the

100

00:04:51,510 --> 00:04:48,430

words claims of the

101
00:04:53,400 --> 00:04:51,520
in front of it I'm a paranormal

102
00:04:55,020 --> 00:04:53,410
investigator well no actually you're a

103
00:04:57,750 --> 00:04:55,030
claims of the paranormal investigator

104
00:05:00,090 --> 00:04:57,760
does that work and now indulge me folks

105
00:05:04,700 --> 00:05:00,100
along the same line of thinking

106
00:05:08,100 --> 00:05:04,710
sometimes I wonder if homeopathy is real

107
00:05:11,790 --> 00:05:08,110
then what what I mean what I mean by

108
00:05:15,440 --> 00:05:11,800
that if if a homeopathic pill or liquid

109
00:05:18,870 --> 00:05:15,450
or whatever is simply the lack of

110
00:05:20,790 --> 00:05:18,880
ingredients so it's a sugar pill with no

111
00:05:22,680 --> 00:05:20,800
ingredients in it because after the

112
00:05:26,250 --> 00:05:22,690
homeopathic processing all the

113
00:05:29,130 --> 00:05:26,260

ingredients are removed oh if they were

114

00:05:30,540 --> 00:05:29,140

even there in the first place then and

115

00:05:33,120 --> 00:05:30,550

you're presented with a pill and they

116

00:05:37,020 --> 00:05:33,130

say this is a homeopathic pill is it

117

00:05:41,640 --> 00:05:37,030

does it even exists can a homeopathic

118

00:05:43,710 --> 00:05:41,650

pill actually be a thing hmm I should

119

00:05:46,650 --> 00:05:43,720

have asked Ben Goldacre that but now

120

00:05:49,830 --> 00:05:46,660

it's time for me to run downstairs run

121

00:05:52,380 --> 00:05:49,840

out the door run to my car drive to the

122

00:05:54,960 --> 00:05:52,390

tram now I'm letter to be lazy I just

123

00:05:58,260 --> 00:05:54,970

walk to the tram station or the light

124

00:06:01,590 --> 00:05:58,270

rail as they call it here travel to

125

00:06:03,710 --> 00:06:01,600

glebe get off their walk up the hill

126

00:06:07,020 --> 00:06:03,720

ugly point road and find myself in

127

00:06:09,270 --> 00:06:07,030

madame frou frou cafe madame frou frou

128

00:06:10,980 --> 00:06:09,280

on Glee Point Road where I often go for

129

00:06:13,020 --> 00:06:10,990

a coffee and meet up with me not to chat

130

00:06:16,110 --> 00:06:13,030

about the skeptic zone and other things

131

00:06:19,220 --> 00:06:16,120

and where may not and Tim Ferguson

132

00:06:23,730 --> 00:06:19,230

record the bunga bunga podcast at

133

00:06:25,740 --> 00:06:23,740

Maynard calm not a you big shout out to

134

00:06:28,170 --> 00:06:25,750

all my friends at Madame frou frou I'll

135

00:06:30,210 --> 00:06:28,180

be there soon and I'll order my favorite

136

00:06:32,670 --> 00:06:30,220

and they know that which is a flat white

137

00:06:38,520 --> 00:06:32,680

coffee with a lovely coffee aren't made

138

00:06:40,230 --> 00:06:38,530

by barista Ritu and oh I think some

139

00:06:41,910 --> 00:06:40,240

peanut butter toast on sourdough bread

140

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:41,920

please if you can have that order ready

141

00:06:47,280 --> 00:06:45,010

for me I'll be there soon and while i'm

142

00:07:12,110 --> 00:06:47,290

enjoying thinking about that i hope you

143

00:07:16,920 --> 00:07:14,430

delighted to be here in Sydney to talk

144

00:07:19,439 --> 00:07:16,930

with the a man are wanting to a meet in

145

00:07:20,939 --> 00:07:19,449

person for many years now man has

146

00:07:23,730 --> 00:07:20,949

appeared on the skeptic zone but not

147

00:07:26,430 --> 00:07:23,740

since 2009 all the way from the UK it's

148

00:07:27,899 --> 00:07:26,440

been going hello Ben hey hello I mean

149

00:07:30,719 --> 00:07:27,909

you say all the way from the UK I've

150

00:07:32,309 --> 00:07:30,729

just been there for a few decades but it

151

00:07:34,260 --> 00:07:32,319

was still it's all the way from the UK

152

00:07:37,020 --> 00:07:34,270

I'd say I say that because it sounds

153

00:07:39,059 --> 00:07:37,030

exotic for the showing well you know I

154

00:07:40,800 --> 00:07:39,069

I'm traveling on an Australian passport

155

00:07:42,420 --> 00:07:40,810

in fact I'd like to do this interview in

156

00:07:45,029 --> 00:07:42,430

my Australian accent if that would be ok

157

00:07:47,580 --> 00:07:45,039

not deserve ok well let's go good luck

158

00:07:51,180 --> 00:07:47,590

ok well it's great to see you you're

159

00:07:53,670 --> 00:07:51,190

here brought out by the people at think

160

00:07:55,529 --> 00:07:53,680

ink thinking lovely people who I've

161

00:07:57,059 --> 00:07:55,539

worked for before number years about go

162

00:07:59,610 --> 00:07:57,069

about two years ago I was lucky enough

163

00:08:01,589 --> 00:07:59,620

to be the host interviewer for James

164

00:08:04,260 --> 00:08:01,599

Randi oh great for the James Randi to it

165

00:08:07,230 --> 00:08:04,270

and you're touring in fact you kick off

166

00:08:08,909 --> 00:08:07,240

on thursday night in Brisbane correct

167

00:08:11,430 --> 00:08:08,919

then you go to Melbourne Auckland and

168

00:08:13,050 --> 00:08:11,440

Sydney it's quite a busy schedule back

169

00:08:14,899 --> 00:08:13,060

to back yeah it's a real shame I was

170

00:08:18,059 --> 00:08:14,909

hoping to see more of Family and

171

00:08:19,589 --> 00:08:18,069

Australia but there it is there it is so

172

00:08:21,950 --> 00:08:19,599

folks there's the word before we get

173

00:08:25,320 --> 00:08:21,960

further on if you go to thinking dot org

174

00:08:27,899 --> 00:08:25,330

dot a you you can see the tour details

175

00:08:29,369 --> 00:08:27,909

and still have time to buy your tickets

176

00:08:31,379 --> 00:08:29,379

I'm certainly going to be turning up at

177

00:08:33,980 --> 00:08:31,389

the Sydney your Sydney talk and I'm

178

00:08:36,269 --> 00:08:33,990

looking forward very much to that Ben

179

00:08:38,490 --> 00:08:36,279

will be following you for years of

180

00:08:40,769 --> 00:08:38,500

course with bad science and things like

181

00:08:42,329 --> 00:08:40,779

that what was the genesis of putting bad

182

00:08:44,130 --> 00:08:42,339

in front of everything because it's

183

00:08:47,819 --> 00:08:44,140

wrong there's a lot of people now who do

184

00:08:51,810 --> 00:08:47,829

that uh I guess at the time I wanted to

185

00:08:53,160 --> 00:08:51,820

I wanted a label that turn to make sure

186

00:08:55,710 --> 00:08:53,170

you know it did what it said on the tin

187

00:08:57,960 --> 00:08:55,720

and bad science is fundamentally what

188

00:09:01,670 --> 00:08:57,970

I'm all about i I'm interested in how

189

00:09:05,790 --> 00:09:01,680

people misuse and misrepresent evidence

190

00:09:07,920 --> 00:09:05,800

in every possible sector so I'm not just

191

00:09:08,630 --> 00:09:07,930

after quacks 90 vaccination conspiracy

192

00:09:10,730 --> 00:09:08,640

theorists

193

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:10,740

I'm an equal opportunities quack Buster

194

00:09:16,220 --> 00:09:14,010

so I go for dodgy politicians and PR

195

00:09:18,590 --> 00:09:16,230

people dodgy journalists but also bad

196

00:09:20,840 --> 00:09:18,600

behavior by drug companies bad behavior

197

00:09:25,160 --> 00:09:20,850

by academics themselves academic journal

198

00:09:26,660 --> 00:09:25,170

editors and so on so the beds really is

199

00:09:28,130 --> 00:09:26,670

the crux of what you've been

200

00:09:30,500 --> 00:09:28,140

concentrating on over the last few years

201

00:09:32,540 --> 00:09:30,510

and I think it is catchy isn't it to put

202

00:09:35,180 --> 00:09:32,550

something bad in front of of something

203

00:09:38,690 --> 00:09:35,190

you really it's for the media to I think

204

00:09:40,610 --> 00:09:38,700

it's it stands out yeah but also I mean

205

00:09:43,940 --> 00:09:40,620

um although all of my books have

206

00:09:45,230 --> 00:09:43,950

slightly smarmy titles and I'm not I'm

207

00:09:47,240 --> 00:09:45,240

not in the business of just going around

208

00:09:49,430 --> 00:09:47,250

saying what's why what's right and

209

00:09:52,850 --> 00:09:49,440

what's wrong yeah i'm interested in

210

00:09:54,350 --> 00:09:52,860

unpicking evidence and explaining how it

211

00:09:55,940 --> 00:09:54,360

falls short so really it's just a

212

00:09:58,190 --> 00:09:55,950

gimmick for explaining how science

213

00:09:59,300 --> 00:09:58,200

really works you take examples and

214

00:10:00,770 --> 00:09:59,310

people getting stuff roll and actually I

215

00:10:03,130 --> 00:10:00,780

think that matches the structure of

216

00:10:05,210 --> 00:10:03,140

science itself because science is about

217

00:10:07,160 --> 00:10:05,220

critically appraising the evidence for

218

00:10:09,620 --> 00:10:07,170

somebody else's position yeah you know

219

00:10:11,420 --> 00:10:09,630

it's a it's a bloodbath it's a fight but

220

00:10:13,550 --> 00:10:11,430

it's a professional one with rules and

221

00:10:15,200 --> 00:10:13,560

structures around it and actually with

222

00:10:17,720 --> 00:10:15,210

my more recent work like for example the

223

00:10:20,200 --> 00:10:17,730

compare trials project tracking how

224

00:10:22,190 --> 00:10:20,210

academic journal editors respond to

225

00:10:24,860 --> 00:10:22,200

notifications that we've been writing a

226
00:10:26,780 --> 00:10:24,870
batch of correction letters to academic

227
00:10:29,300 --> 00:10:26,790
journals where they've misreported

228
00:10:31,040 --> 00:10:29,310
clinical trials and this has been a

229
00:10:32,930 --> 00:10:31,050
really big project huge team of people

230
00:10:35,570 --> 00:10:32,940
in Oxford and that we've been running

231
00:10:38,420 --> 00:10:35,580
over the last nine months and it's

232
00:10:40,040 --> 00:10:38,430
really interesting to see how the

233
00:10:41,480 --> 00:10:40,050
structures of science themselves aren't

234
00:10:43,490 --> 00:10:41,490
working as advertised so

235
00:10:45,890 --> 00:10:43,500
post-publication peer review isn't

236
00:10:47,780 --> 00:10:45,900
really working properly journal editors

237
00:10:50,420 --> 00:10:47,790
and try lists behaving in really

238
00:10:51,800 --> 00:10:50,430

fascinating and often quite unimpressive

239

00:10:54,110 --> 00:10:51,810

ways when presented with these

240

00:10:56,660 --> 00:10:54,120

Corrections so I guess over the course

241

00:10:59,180 --> 00:10:56,670

of the last decade my work has moved on

242

00:11:00,650 --> 00:10:59,190

and got nerdier an earlier as time

243

00:11:03,260 --> 00:11:00,660

passes and got into more and more

244

00:11:05,690 --> 00:11:03,270

technical corners but I think you know

245

00:11:07,550 --> 00:11:05,700

the kind of traditional skeptic audience

246

00:11:08,540 --> 00:11:07,560

and I'm not sure identifies the

247

00:11:10,340 --> 00:11:08,550

scripting own because I'm just not

248

00:11:12,470 --> 00:11:10,350

really a joiner you know no I'm not a

249

00:11:13,850 --> 00:11:12,480

member of a golf club either I mean I

250

00:11:17,570 --> 00:11:13,860

don't know why I pick that example I

251

00:11:21,020 --> 00:11:17,580

think but right yeah you know it's all

252

00:11:24,020 --> 00:11:21,030

the same stuff it's all people misuse

253

00:11:26,990 --> 00:11:24,030

science misusing evidence just it with

254

00:11:28,850 --> 00:11:27,000

different scales of difficulty I suppose

255

00:11:30,800 --> 00:11:28,860

this whole thing I'm earring out up

256

00:11:33,890 --> 00:11:30,810

about peer review because it's often

257

00:11:36,170 --> 00:11:33,900

held up to be some mythical gold

258

00:11:38,120 --> 00:11:36,180

standard of everything BP it hasn't been

259

00:11:39,650 --> 00:11:38,130

peer-reviewed then then we don't want to

260

00:11:41,870 --> 00:11:39,660

know about it but as you point out

261

00:11:43,610 --> 00:11:41,880

that's problematic yeah I mean I've

262

00:11:45,770 --> 00:11:43,620

always been quite queasy about people

263

00:11:48,740 --> 00:11:45,780

saying I've always been quite queasy

264

00:11:50,570 --> 00:11:48,750

about any actual kind of fur hey dr. Ben

265

00:11:53,270 --> 00:11:50,580

what are your top five ways that people

266

00:11:54,830 --> 00:11:53,280

consumers can spot bad science and I and

267

00:11:57,740 --> 00:11:54,840

I think when you give people shortcuts

268

00:11:59,270 --> 00:11:57,750

like oh is it peer reviewed and I think

269

00:12:01,130 --> 00:11:59,280

that's almost an authority play I mean

270

00:12:04,310 --> 00:12:01,140

there's a huge amount of evidence from

271

00:12:08,420 --> 00:12:04,320

the research about research literature

272

00:12:09,620 --> 00:12:08,430

showing that and the actually academic

273

00:12:11,630 --> 00:12:09,630

journal editors and peer reviewers

274

00:12:13,070 --> 00:12:11,640

routinely fail in their duties and

275

00:12:14,510 --> 00:12:13,080

obligations and it's it's the least

276

00:12:16,610 --> 00:12:14,520

worst game in town but the academic

277

00:12:19,340 --> 00:12:16,620

literature is a buyer beware environment

278

00:12:21,110 --> 00:12:19,350

is there to be read critically by people

279

00:12:23,150 --> 00:12:21,120

who know what they're doing and often

280

00:12:25,060 --> 00:12:23,160

things that have shortcomings published

281

00:12:28,130 --> 00:12:25,070

and in fact you know I mean I teach

282

00:12:30,710 --> 00:12:28,140

critical appraisal and and the basics of

283

00:12:32,270 --> 00:12:30,720

Epidemiology and trial design and in

284

00:12:35,870 --> 00:12:32,280

Oxford and at London School of Hygiene

285

00:12:37,580 --> 00:12:35,880

and and really the thing that you really

286

00:12:40,070 --> 00:12:37,590

learn to appreciate it as he does he

287

00:12:42,650 --> 00:12:40,080

teach that over a decade or so is that

288

00:12:44,420 --> 00:12:42,660

you know obviously all studies have

289

00:12:46,520 --> 00:12:44,430

their strengths and weaknesses and

290

00:12:48,470 --> 00:12:46,530

there's no such thing as it's very rare

291

00:12:51,200 --> 00:12:48,480

to come across a perfect so every study

292

00:12:53,240 --> 00:12:51,210

has to take shortcuts for financial

293

00:12:54,980 --> 00:12:53,250

reasons or ethical reasons or practical

294

00:12:56,150 --> 00:12:54,990

reasons beer and so you always have to

295

00:12:58,060 --> 00:12:56,160

think critically about what the

296

00:13:00,170 --> 00:12:58,070

strengths and weaknesses of a study are

297

00:13:02,030 --> 00:13:00,180

moving on from that I mean what we've

298

00:13:04,310 --> 00:13:02,040

what we found with a lot of our work

299

00:13:06,770 --> 00:13:04,320

like as I said you know compare trials

300

00:13:08,420 --> 00:13:06,780

it's that not only just does peer review

301
00:13:10,850 --> 00:13:08,430
not work as every time so we know that

302
00:13:12,320 --> 00:13:10,860
people are reporting routinely

303
00:13:15,370 --> 00:13:12,330
misreporting their pre-specified

304
00:13:19,190 --> 00:13:15,380
outcomes switching the outcomes between

305
00:13:21,110 --> 00:13:19,200
registration and and the final trial

306
00:13:22,760 --> 00:13:21,120
report which is it it's just a yet

307
00:13:25,640 --> 00:13:22,770
another form of cherry-picking of

308
00:13:28,190 --> 00:13:25,650
results not only are people doing that

309
00:13:29,190 --> 00:13:28,200
in their trial reports but also when you

310
00:13:31,470 --> 00:13:29,200
point out that

311
00:13:33,990 --> 00:13:31,480
done that in a letter to the editor for

312
00:13:35,730 --> 00:13:34,000
publication they're failing to correct

313
00:13:37,620 --> 00:13:35,740

the record so we're finding actually

314

00:13:42,060 --> 00:13:37,630

some really quite serious structural

315

00:13:43,980 --> 00:13:42,070

flaws in in the whole mechanisms that we

316

00:13:46,770 --> 00:13:43,990

use in science and I think you know

317

00:13:47,880 --> 00:13:46,780

we're part of a wider community of

318

00:13:49,500 --> 00:13:47,890

people doing that kind of research

319

00:13:51,630 --> 00:13:49,510

methods and reporting work along with

320

00:13:53,490 --> 00:13:51,640

John Ioannidis of metrics instituting

321

00:13:55,530 --> 00:13:53,500

Stanford and that kind of thing and it's

322

00:13:57,390 --> 00:13:55,540

a really exciting field because it's

323

00:14:00,000 --> 00:13:57,400

about finessing and perfecting the way

324

00:14:01,860 --> 00:14:00,010

that science itself operates absolutely

325

00:14:04,170 --> 00:14:01,870

and it brings an interesting point to

326

00:14:07,830 --> 00:14:04,180

mine because I was just skimming through

327

00:14:10,620 --> 00:14:07,840

some of your online activities raiding

328

00:14:12,450 --> 00:14:10,630

youtube for example and if folks if you

329

00:14:14,010 --> 00:14:12,460

go to youtube and look up ben goldacre

330

00:14:16,230 --> 00:14:14,020

there are many examples of ben goldacre

331

00:14:17,670 --> 00:14:16,240

on there and I was hoping to come across

332

00:14:20,700 --> 00:14:17,680

one you did a number of years ago

333

00:14:22,530 --> 00:14:20,710

debating a homeopath on the BBC and he's

334

00:14:24,990 --> 00:14:22,540

bringing up things which is interesting

335

00:14:27,210 --> 00:14:25,000

like saying well course homeopathy works

336

00:14:29,130 --> 00:14:27,220

because we've had studies that show

337

00:14:30,900 --> 00:14:29,140

peer-reviewed studies that show it does

338

00:14:34,590 --> 00:14:30,910

work what do you say to that Ben go like

339

00:14:37,140 --> 00:14:34,600

you use smarmy doctor but it does bring

340

00:14:38,130 --> 00:14:37,150

home and we almost call that I don't

341

00:14:41,040 --> 00:14:38,140

know if you're familiar with the term

342

00:14:42,930 --> 00:14:41,050

Gish galloping this where you just load

343

00:14:45,120 --> 00:14:42,940

somebody up with endless studies they

344

00:14:46,440 --> 00:14:45,130

can't possibly refute on the spot but I

345

00:14:49,410 --> 00:14:46,450

think you did a pretty good job and that

346

00:14:50,880 --> 00:14:49,420

in that situation well I mean I think

347

00:14:53,040 --> 00:14:50,890

the interesting thing about homeopaths

348

00:14:56,490 --> 00:14:53,050

to me is that they use the same tricks

349

00:14:59,070 --> 00:14:56,500

as drug companies setting out to promote

350

00:15:01,020 --> 00:14:59,080

a new product I mean it's all part of

351

00:15:02,520 --> 00:15:01,030

the same it's all part of the same

352

00:15:05,490 --> 00:15:02,530

project I mean how many paths use them

353

00:15:09,480 --> 00:15:05,500

use those tricks in slightly cruder more

354

00:15:11,490 --> 00:15:09,490

more crass and obvious ways but you know

355

00:15:13,320 --> 00:15:11,500

you see gift galloping from drug

356

00:15:16,050 --> 00:15:13,330

companies when drug reps go out to

357

00:15:18,510 --> 00:15:16,060

promote products you see cherry-picking

358

00:15:21,240 --> 00:15:18,520

from drug companies but you also see

359

00:15:24,120 --> 00:15:21,250

cherry-picking from non-industry

360

00:15:25,680 --> 00:15:24,130

academic funded trials you know there's

361

00:15:27,270 --> 00:15:25,690

this global problem which I'm sure you

362

00:15:28,860 --> 00:15:27,280

know about which we've been camping

363

00:15:29,490 --> 00:15:28,870

campaigning on with the all trial stop

364

00:15:32,250 --> 00:15:29,500

net can

365

00:15:33,780 --> 00:15:32,260

of people with holding the results of

366

00:15:36,480 --> 00:15:33,790

clinical trials after they've completed

367

00:15:39,120 --> 00:15:36,490

and it's not just drug companies that do

368

00:15:41,360 --> 00:15:39,130

that it's also we have people doing

369

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:41,370

public health trials on promoting

370

00:15:46,770 --> 00:15:45,010

exercises surgical trials it's trance of

371

00:15:49,140 --> 00:15:46,780

talking treatments for depression across

372

00:15:53,850 --> 00:15:49,150

the board you see you see cherry picking

373

00:15:56,760 --> 00:15:53,860

and so you know I guess I don't I

374

00:15:59,490 --> 00:15:56,770

wouldn't identify homeopaths as a unique

375

00:16:00,990 --> 00:15:59,500

category no of Miss users of science I

376

00:16:03,450 --> 00:16:01,000

thought it was the author picture of

377

00:16:05,400 --> 00:16:03,460

you're misusing science in order to to

378

00:16:07,620 --> 00:16:05,410

promote their favored intervention

379

00:16:08,730 --> 00:16:07,630

whatever that might be I think I do

380

00:16:10,830 --> 00:16:08,740

actually think though that I mean the

381

00:16:13,950 --> 00:16:10,840

one thing that the one thing that quacks

382

00:16:17,220 --> 00:16:13,960

do to warrant attention online is that

383

00:16:19,170 --> 00:16:17,230

they behave on a personal level it's

384

00:16:21,900 --> 00:16:19,180

very kind of colorful and childish away

385

00:16:23,610 --> 00:16:21,910

and I kind of sometimes I feel sad I

386

00:16:28,940 --> 00:16:23,620

feel like the skeptic community don't go

387

00:16:31,770 --> 00:16:28,950

after a meteor targets by which I mean

388

00:16:36,240 --> 00:16:31,780

bad behavior by academics or academic

389

00:16:38,700 --> 00:16:36,250

journals or drug companies but I feel

390

00:16:40,860 --> 00:16:38,710

like I can understand why and I think a

391

00:16:43,860 --> 00:16:40,870

lot of it is down to color when you when

392

00:16:46,320 --> 00:16:43,870

you go after a homeopath and you point

393

00:16:48,300 --> 00:16:46,330

out that they're wrong they don't engage

394

00:16:50,750 --> 00:16:48,310

with you on the evidence generally they

395

00:16:52,980 --> 00:16:50,760

will they will sort of you know if

396

00:16:54,960 --> 00:16:52,990

research you on the internet and publish

397

00:16:58,530 --> 00:16:54,970

smear stories about your sister or

398

00:17:00,720 --> 00:16:58,540

they'll you know let try and contact

399

00:17:03,450 --> 00:17:00,730

your boss and have you silent store

400

00:17:06,360 --> 00:17:03,460

they'll publish some wildly defamatory

401

00:17:08,819 --> 00:17:06,370

series of smears or they'll go off on

402

00:17:10,620 --> 00:17:08,829

some giant conspiracy theory about the

403

00:17:12,090 --> 00:17:10,630

pharmaceutical industry no behave in

404

00:17:15,030 --> 00:17:12,100

ways that kind of naturally draw you

405

00:17:16,890 --> 00:17:15,040

into to a kind of colorful engagement

406

00:17:19,380 --> 00:17:16,900

about about how awful they are as people

407

00:17:21,949 --> 00:17:19,390

if you go off to somebody who's a little

408

00:17:24,720 --> 00:17:21,959

bit more professional then they'll be

409

00:17:27,809 --> 00:17:24,730

advised by a very competent reputation

410

00:17:30,300 --> 00:17:27,819

management arm of their company or by an

411

00:17:33,060 --> 00:17:30,310

independent PR firm he'll just go look

412

00:17:35,910 --> 00:17:33,070

if they've landed a good hit just walk

413

00:17:39,060 --> 00:17:35,920

away just just leave it just go move on

414

00:17:40,919 --> 00:17:39,070

and and so you know they don't they

415

00:17:42,580 --> 00:17:40,929

don't draw you into such a colorful

416

00:17:45,700 --> 00:17:42,590

series of

417

00:17:48,460 --> 00:17:45,710

bats so I think that's partly why quacks

418

00:17:49,840 --> 00:17:48,470

gets so much attention online I think so

419

00:17:52,240 --> 00:17:49,850

too and especially in the media because

420

00:17:54,130 --> 00:17:52,250

at the end of the day many media outlets

421

00:17:55,690 --> 00:17:54,140

are after the juicy story the

422

00:17:57,850 --> 00:17:55,700

interesting story the story as we say

423

00:17:59,860 --> 00:17:57,860

we'll get bums on seats and and if that

424

00:18:02,500 --> 00:17:59,870

story is you versus a homeopath that's

425

00:18:05,169 --> 00:18:02,510

an easy story for them isn't it yeah and

426

00:18:08,789 --> 00:18:05,179

and again you know as I say you know you

427

00:18:10,990 --> 00:18:08,799

do find the same patterns of behavior

428

00:18:12,820 --> 00:18:11,000

the world over and I supposed to

429

00:18:14,740 --> 00:18:12,830

undermine my previous point just from

430

00:18:16,480 --> 00:18:14,750

Holman and what one thing that we found

431

00:18:19,810 --> 00:18:16,490

with the compare trials project which

432

00:18:21,760 --> 00:18:19,820

absolutely amazed us was so with just

433

00:18:26,470 --> 00:18:21,770

about recommending we can compare trials

434

00:18:28,510 --> 00:18:26,480

is this epically nerdy battle so there's

435

00:18:30,490 --> 00:18:28,520

a long-standing problem in clinical

436

00:18:31,899 --> 00:18:30,500

trials research you're supposed to

437

00:18:33,580 --> 00:18:31,909

correctly report your pre specified

438

00:18:35,049 --> 00:18:33,590

outcomes so when you do a clinical trial

439

00:18:37,299 --> 00:18:35,059

you don't just say we're going to

440

00:18:39,340 --> 00:18:37,309

measure cardiovascular health because

441

00:18:41,139 --> 00:18:39,350

you could measure that in so many

442

00:18:43,690 --> 00:18:41,149

different ways an infinite number of

443

00:18:45,430 --> 00:18:43,700

different ways that you could you could

444

00:18:48,909 --> 00:18:45,440

cherry-pick and get a positive finding

445

00:18:51,430 --> 00:18:48,919

from and even an intervention that had

446

00:18:52,899 --> 00:18:51,440

no benefit at all so you have to pre

447

00:18:55,060 --> 00:18:52,909

specify exactly how you can a measure up

448

00:18:57,549 --> 00:18:55,070

say cardiovascular health which blood

449

00:18:58,960 --> 00:18:57,559

tests are going to use what cutoff value

450

00:19:01,659 --> 00:18:58,970

you're going to have for a positive or

451
00:19:02,740 --> 00:19:01,669
negative finding which diagnosis you're

452
00:19:04,539 --> 00:19:02,750
going to measure so is it going to be

453
00:19:06,580 --> 00:19:04,549
myocardial and function if so how you

454
00:19:07,779 --> 00:19:06,590
diagnose it that sort of thing and then

455
00:19:09,220 --> 00:19:07,789
when you come to report your clinical

456
00:19:11,200 --> 00:19:09,230
trial you have to make sure that you

457
00:19:12,669 --> 00:19:11,210
report the outcomes that you've said you

458
00:19:14,950 --> 00:19:12,679
were going to report so it's about pre

459
00:19:17,919 --> 00:19:14,960
defining your success criteria for your

460
00:19:19,600 --> 00:19:17,929
intervention now we've known forever in

461
00:19:21,730 --> 00:19:19,610
medicine that if you don't do this

462
00:19:23,470 --> 00:19:21,740
properly that your results are biased

463
00:19:25,659 --> 00:19:23,480

and exaggerated because it's just

464

00:19:27,159 --> 00:19:25,669

another form of cherry-picking and we've

465

00:19:29,019 --> 00:19:27,169

known this for over and we've also had

466

00:19:30,580 --> 00:19:29,029

things like the consort guidelines which

467

00:19:32,919 --> 00:19:30,590

are the guidelines on correct reporting

468

00:19:34,029 --> 00:19:32,929

clinical trials now all the academic

469

00:19:35,980 --> 00:19:34,039

journals that you've heard of in the

470

00:19:37,630 --> 00:19:35,990

world have signed up to the consort

471

00:19:39,430 --> 00:19:37,640

guidelines they've all said yes we're

472

00:19:41,680 --> 00:19:39,440

going to require trials to be properly

473

00:19:42,850 --> 00:19:41,690

registered and have a protocol and when

474

00:19:44,560 --> 00:19:42,860

they report their results we're going to

475

00:19:46,570 --> 00:19:44,570

make sure they report the outcomes that

476
00:19:49,149 --> 00:19:46,580
were pre specified before they started

477
00:19:50,950 --> 00:19:49,159
and yet there have been about 30 studies

478
00:19:53,049 --> 00:19:50,960
published showing that academic journals

479
00:19:54,899 --> 00:19:53,059
actually don't do that they allow people

480
00:19:56,789 --> 00:19:54,909
to engage in what's called

481
00:19:58,499 --> 00:19:56,799
come switching where the outcomes which

482
00:20:00,299 --> 00:19:58,509
where they switch in and report

483
00:20:03,989 --> 00:20:00,309
different outcomes to the ones that were

484
00:20:05,879 --> 00:20:03,999
pre specified so we didn't want to do

485
00:20:07,379 --> 00:20:05,889
yet another prevalent study where we say

486
00:20:09,930 --> 00:20:07,389
hey we looked at this and we found that

487
00:20:11,849 --> 00:20:09,940
40 or 60 percent of all trials

488
00:20:15,359 --> 00:20:11,859

misreported their pre specified outcomes

489

00:20:17,159 --> 00:20:15,369

instead we wanted to engage in what was

490

00:20:20,700 --> 00:20:17,169

if you like a kind of academic activism

491

00:20:23,460 --> 00:20:20,710

in one sense where we set out to measure

492

00:20:24,989 --> 00:20:23,470

we took to assess for every single trial

493

00:20:26,609 --> 00:20:24,999

published by the big five channels that

494

00:20:30,060 --> 00:20:26,619

New England Journal of Medicine jammer

495

00:20:32,639 --> 00:20:30,070

annals Lansing bmj for a six week period

496

00:20:34,589 --> 00:20:32,649

every single trial we assessed wherever

497

00:20:36,149 --> 00:20:34,599

it misreported its outcomes we didn't

498

00:20:38,159 --> 00:20:36,159

just quietly write that down and publish

499

00:20:40,139 --> 00:20:38,169

an overall prevalence figure we wrote a

500

00:20:41,969 --> 00:20:40,149

correction letter to the journal saying

501
00:20:43,589 --> 00:20:41,979
hey you've signed up to the console

502
00:20:46,049 --> 00:20:43,599
guidelines on correct trial reporting

503
00:20:48,029 --> 00:20:46,059
but this trial misreported its pre

504
00:20:49,379 --> 00:20:48,039
specified outcomes these are the

505
00:20:51,479 --> 00:20:49,389
discrepancies we think you should

506
00:20:54,659 --> 00:20:51,489
correct the record so this was really a

507
00:20:57,629 --> 00:20:54,669
project about firstly trying to correct

508
00:20:59,369 --> 00:20:57,639
the record itself but also secondly more

509
00:21:01,710 --> 00:20:59,379
importantly trying to see what happens

510
00:21:04,369 --> 00:21:01,720
when you try to correct the record and

511
00:21:06,869 --> 00:21:04,379
the answer is you see spectacular

512
00:21:09,509 --> 00:21:06,879
variation between journals and between

513
00:21:11,849 --> 00:21:09,519

trial lists in how they respond but you

514

00:21:14,519 --> 00:21:11,859

also see really very bad behavior in

515

00:21:16,859 --> 00:21:14,529

some cases so some journals instantly

516

00:21:19,169 --> 00:21:16,869

issue Corrections those bmj for example

517

00:21:20,940 --> 00:21:19,179

other journals rejected all of our

518

00:21:22,560 --> 00:21:20,950

letters and said actually we don't care

519

00:21:24,180 --> 00:21:22,570

if people transgress the consort

520

00:21:26,159 --> 00:21:24,190

guidelines despite the fact that they've

521

00:21:28,200 --> 00:21:26,169

been publicly listed as endorsing the

522

00:21:30,359 --> 00:21:28,210

consort guidelines forever some journals

523

00:21:33,089 --> 00:21:30,369

like animals publish this extraordinary

524

00:21:34,589 --> 00:21:33,099

like to page really a kind of

525

00:21:37,320 --> 00:21:34,599

denunciation the sort of thing that

526
00:21:39,180 --> 00:21:37,330
you'd see on a homeopath blog in which

527
00:21:42,269 --> 00:21:39,190
they said things that were simply not

528
00:21:44,070 --> 00:21:42,279
true about our methods we shared all our

529
00:21:46,259 --> 00:21:44,080
data as we went so anybody could look

530
00:21:47,820 --> 00:21:46,269
and see our raw coding sheets so they

531
00:21:50,249 --> 00:21:47,830
could see exactly what we were

532
00:21:53,129 --> 00:21:50,259
classifying as a correctly reported or

533
00:21:54,899 --> 00:21:53,139
miss reported outcome and they said that

534
00:21:56,580 --> 00:21:54,909
we classify things as correctly

535
00:21:59,119 --> 00:21:56,590
incorrectly reported when we haven't

536
00:22:02,730 --> 00:21:59,129
infiltrators at nijem just extraordinary

537
00:22:05,070 --> 00:22:02,740
extraordinary behavior and a face-saving

538
00:22:06,320 --> 00:22:05,080

people offensive I suppose at best year

539

00:22:09,900 --> 00:22:06,330

you could call them motivated

540

00:22:11,040 --> 00:22:09,910

misunderstandings and but and and again

541

00:22:13,020 --> 00:22:11,050

so one of the things that happens in

542

00:22:14,880 --> 00:22:13,030

sort of skeptics Pat's with homeopaths

543

00:22:17,100 --> 00:22:14,890

is somebody writes something really

544

00:22:18,780 --> 00:22:17,110

stupid on their own homeopath blog and

545

00:22:20,669 --> 00:22:18,790

then you try and correct it in the

546

00:22:22,340 --> 00:22:20,679

comments section and they delete your

547

00:22:24,720 --> 00:22:22,350

comments and won't allow you to yes

548

00:22:27,390 --> 00:22:24,730

that's a very common to Georgia so we

549

00:22:29,370 --> 00:22:27,400

found exactly that in the pages of the

550

00:22:30,810 --> 00:22:29,380

annals of internal medicine so I'll have

551

00:22:33,390 --> 00:22:30,820

internal medicine published this

552

00:22:35,340 --> 00:22:33,400

two-page denunciation that was riddled

553

00:22:37,440 --> 00:22:35,350

with things that were just simply

554

00:22:39,390 --> 00:22:37,450

factually untrue on real black and white

555

00:22:41,820 --> 00:22:39,400

issues also internally inconsistent

556

00:22:44,570 --> 00:22:41,830

house is all very familiar from the

557

00:22:48,299 --> 00:22:44,580

world of older you homeopaths online and

558

00:22:51,600 --> 00:22:48,309

when we attempted to submit corrections

559

00:22:54,690 --> 00:22:51,610

for publication online and in print they

560

00:22:55,860 --> 00:22:54,700

simply rejected them out of hand so I

561

00:22:58,740 --> 00:22:55,870

wrote you know I've written a piece in

562

00:23:01,049 --> 00:22:58,750

nature about this and we're we're

563

00:23:02,760 --> 00:23:01,059

publishing our paper on the response of

564

00:23:04,650 --> 00:23:02,770

journals to our cohort of correction

565

00:23:07,169 --> 00:23:04,660

letters and also a separate paper on the

566

00:23:10,169 --> 00:23:07,179

responses of trial lists but what I find

567

00:23:11,970 --> 00:23:10,179

absolutely fascinating is as I said the

568

00:23:15,630 --> 00:23:11,980

commonalities between the way that

569

00:23:17,580 --> 00:23:15,640

homeopaths respond on their blogs when

570

00:23:19,110 --> 00:23:17,590

you criticize them and the way that the

571

00:23:21,330 --> 00:23:19,120

academic journal editors from the

572

00:23:24,570 --> 00:23:21,340

biggest academic journals in the world

573

00:23:26,780 --> 00:23:24,580

respond when you point out that they

574

00:23:29,280 --> 00:23:26,790

have fallen short in absolute

575

00:23:31,260 --> 00:23:29,290

unambiguously proven black-and-white

576

00:23:33,810 --> 00:23:31,270

terms and really you couldn't put a

577

00:23:35,460 --> 00:23:33,820

cigarette paper between them and if you

578

00:23:39,480 --> 00:23:35,470

want to find out more about that if you

579

00:23:41,010 --> 00:23:39,490

go to compare hyphen trials org you can

580

00:23:42,570 --> 00:23:41,020

see everything that we've been doing in

581

00:23:44,400 --> 00:23:42,580

the compare trials project and I think

582

00:23:45,690 --> 00:23:44,410

you know it's interesting and fun well

583

00:23:48,510 --> 00:23:45,700

I'll certainly add a link to that on

584

00:23:50,880 --> 00:23:48,520

this week's show notes folks here's the

585

00:23:52,470 --> 00:23:50,890

word gum and see Ben Goldacre live in

586

00:23:54,270 --> 00:23:52,480

person you'll be in Brisbane on the

587

00:23:55,860 --> 00:23:54,280

thursday the twenty second Friday the

588

00:23:58,049 --> 00:23:55,870

twenty-third we'll see him in Melbourne

589

00:24:00,450 --> 00:23:58,059

for you folks in Auckland he'll be there

590

00:24:03,510 --> 00:24:00,460

on Saturday to 24th and right here in

591

00:24:07,080 --> 00:24:03,520

Sydney on Sunday the 25th where you can

592

00:24:09,690 --> 00:24:07,090

enjoy Ben's talk and pose questions

593

00:24:10,980 --> 00:24:09,700

which is an important year and during

594

00:24:12,780 --> 00:24:10,990

the show which will be something to look

595

00:24:15,389 --> 00:24:12,790

forward to for more information head to

596

00:24:17,489 --> 00:24:15,399

think inc org

597

00:24:19,859 --> 00:24:17,499

to snap up your tickets and you can

598

00:24:22,349 --> 00:24:19,869

always visit bad science dotnet to find

599

00:24:24,299 --> 00:24:22,359

out more about Ben Goldacre been after

600

00:24:26,219 --> 00:24:24,309

all these years it's a great pleasure to

601
00:24:27,899 --> 00:24:26,229
meet you in person Natalie you see nice

602
00:24:29,190 --> 00:24:27,909
to meet you and thank you and we

603
00:24:51,029 --> 00:24:29,200
certainly look forward to the upcoming

604
00:24:53,009 --> 00:24:51,039
talks cool cheerio I toss a coin hundred

605
00:24:55,799 --> 00:24:53,019
times and I'm allowed to withhold from

606
00:24:57,989 --> 00:24:55,809
you the ISIS half the times then I can

607
00:25:01,079 --> 00:24:57,999
convince you that I have a coin with two

608
00:25:02,969 --> 00:25:01,089
heads ok if we remove half of the data

609
00:25:06,149 --> 00:25:02,979
we can never know what the true effect

610
00:25:09,570 --> 00:25:06,159
size of these medicines we cannot make

611
00:25:11,729 --> 00:25:09,580
decisions in the absolute all of the

612
00:25:13,200 --> 00:25:11,739
information in science we don't care how

613
00:25:14,849 --> 00:25:13,210

many letters you have after your name

614

00:25:16,649 --> 00:25:14,859

insights we want to know what your

615

00:25:18,359 --> 00:25:16,659

reasons are for believing somehow do you

616

00:25:22,139 --> 00:25:18,369

know that something is good for us or

617

00:25:25,619 --> 00:25:22,149

bad for us an evening with Ben Goldacre

618

00:25:28,529 --> 00:25:25,629

only a perfect hucksters nonsensical

619

00:25:31,499 --> 00:25:28,539

naturopaths Andy intellectual

620

00:25:33,869 --> 00:25:31,509

anti-vaxxers slippery statisticians the

621

00:25:37,129 --> 00:25:33,879

journalists daring to declare meets is

622

00:25:40,680 --> 00:25:37,139

critically carcinogenic let's not forget

623

00:25:42,869 --> 00:25:40,690

fraudulent pharmaceutical firms so when

624

00:25:45,629 --> 00:25:42,879

the public is kept in the dark about the

625

00:25:48,450 --> 00:25:45,639

detrimental duplicity of these

626
00:25:49,709 --> 00:25:48,460
declarations how many scientists does it

627
00:25:53,099 --> 00:25:49,719
take to screw in a light bulb that

628
00:25:55,259 --> 00:25:53,109
illuminates the facts just one talk to

629
00:25:58,649 --> 00:25:55,269
ben goldacre shining a light in

630
00:26:01,229 --> 00:25:58,659
Australia and New Zealand this September

631
00:26:03,989 --> 00:26:01,239
an evening with Ben Goldacre is brought

632
00:26:05,899 --> 00:26:03,999
to you by think ink the folks behind the

633
00:26:09,269 --> 00:26:05,909
Australian tools of dr. Neil deGrasse

634
00:26:12,419 --> 00:26:09,279
Tyson James the amazing Randi Steve

635
00:26:13,950 --> 00:26:12,429
Wozniak and many more Ben Goldacre will

636
00:26:16,710 --> 00:26:13,960
be speaking in Brisbane Melbourne

637
00:26:23,099 --> 00:26:16,720
Auckland and Sydney and to get your

638
00:26:25,830 --> 00:26:23,109

tickets visit w WN Korg a you and I hope

639

00:26:44,680 --> 00:26:25,840

to see you at the Sydney talk on Sunday

640

00:26:59,840 --> 00:26:49,280

interesting claims questioning take

641

00:27:02,360 --> 00:26:59,850

stock with Shelly stalkin hi I'm Shelly

642

00:27:07,610 --> 00:27:02,370

stockin and this week I'm playing dr.

643

00:27:10,580 --> 00:27:07,620

Google a visit back in 2011 dr. Richie

644

00:27:12,650 --> 00:27:10,590

gave a talk entitled diagnosis by dr.

645

00:27:14,320 --> 00:27:12,660

Google in which she discussed the

646

00:27:16,790 --> 00:27:14,330

increasing number of Australians

647

00:27:19,250 --> 00:27:16,800

self-diagnosing illness by searching for

648

00:27:21,430 --> 00:27:19,260

their symptoms on the internet I'm

649

00:27:23,870 --> 00:27:21,440

interested in what's changed since then

650

00:27:29,360 --> 00:27:23,880

so let's go back through the spooky

651
00:27:31,730 --> 00:27:29,370
mists of time not far though five years

652
00:27:33,970 --> 00:27:31,740
ago about eighty percent of Australians

653
00:27:36,470 --> 00:27:33,980
had access to the internet at home

654
00:27:38,330 --> 00:27:36,480
mobile devices were really starting to

655
00:27:40,790 --> 00:27:38,340
hit their straps as Internet accessing

656
00:27:43,910 --> 00:27:40,800
machines with about 11 million mobile

657
00:27:45,740 --> 00:27:43,920
subscriptions and about ninety three

658
00:27:48,160 --> 00:27:45,750
percent of people on the internet used

659
00:27:50,450 --> 00:27:48,170
Google as their search engine of choice

660
00:27:52,370 --> 00:27:50,460
even my dad was warming up to the idea

661
00:27:54,140 --> 00:27:52,380
that the internet was a faster and more

662
00:27:58,160 --> 00:27:54,150
convenient source of information than

663
00:28:00,050 --> 00:27:58,170

the local library now let's zip forward

664

00:28:02,960 --> 00:28:00,060

to the present day or at least to

665

00:28:05,270 --> 00:28:02,970

December 2015 when the Australian Bureau

666

00:28:08,720 --> 00:28:05,280

of Statistics last published details of

667

00:28:10,580 --> 00:28:08,730

Australia's internet use the recent

668

00:28:12,470 --> 00:28:10,590

figures show that roughly eighty-six

669

00:28:14,810 --> 00:28:12,480

percent of all Australian households are

670

00:28:18,560 --> 00:28:14,820

connected to the internet an increase of

671

00:28:20,650 --> 00:28:18,570

six percent since 2011 there are just

672

00:28:23,390 --> 00:28:20,660

over 21 million mobile handset

673

00:28:25,280 --> 00:28:23,400

subscriptions and Google is not only

674

00:28:28,040 --> 00:28:25,290

used as our favorite search engine it's

675

00:28:29,780 --> 00:28:28,050

now one of our favorite verbs so what's

676

00:28:34,700 --> 00:28:29,790

changed as far as dr. Google is

677

00:28:36,050 --> 00:28:34,710

concerned a little but not a lot we

678

00:28:38,150 --> 00:28:36,060

still use the internet to research

679

00:28:40,940 --> 00:28:38,160

symptoms medications and other

680

00:28:43,250 --> 00:28:40,950

health-related information perhaps

681

00:28:45,530 --> 00:28:43,260

because of this the number of sites

682

00:28:46,130 --> 00:28:45,540

offering good quality reliable health

683

00:28:50,420 --> 00:28:46,140

information

684

00:28:51,950 --> 00:28:50,430

has increased unfortunately an increase

685

00:28:53,660 --> 00:28:51,960

in the number of sites offering

686

00:28:56,480 --> 00:28:53,670

evidence-based health information

687

00:28:58,400 --> 00:28:56,490

doesn't necessarily mean the proportion

688

00:29:02,240 --> 00:28:58,410

of reliable health information has

689

00:29:04,880 --> 00:29:02,250

increased it's still very easy to find

690

00:29:07,250 --> 00:29:04,890

unverified misleading or dangerous

691

00:29:10,250 --> 00:29:07,260

health information on the web and just

692

00:29:13,040 --> 00:29:10,260

as easy to post it there and even the

693

00:29:15,140 --> 00:29:13,050

most reliable evidence based trustworthy

694

00:29:19,070 --> 00:29:15,150

health information can be useless if

695

00:29:21,170 --> 00:29:19,080

it's used in the wrong context overall

696

00:29:22,940 --> 00:29:21,180

we seem to be getting more innovative

697

00:29:25,010 --> 00:29:22,950

with the way we use the internet to

698

00:29:27,050 --> 00:29:25,020

manage our health creating more

699

00:29:31,190 --> 00:29:27,060

convenient in interactive ways to get

700

00:29:34,910 --> 00:29:31,200

advice tests and treatments online for

701
00:29:36,890 --> 00:29:34,920
example internet doctor Comte you is an

702
00:29:38,930 --> 00:29:36,900
Australian site that allows patients to

703
00:29:41,510 --> 00:29:38,940
discretely order sexual health tests

704
00:29:43,880 --> 00:29:41,520
online and there are an increasing

705
00:29:46,880 --> 00:29:43,890
number of telehealth services available

706
00:29:48,800 --> 00:29:46,890
to remote and regional users providing

707
00:29:51,020 --> 00:29:48,810
access to medical practitioners via

708
00:29:54,890 --> 00:29:51,030
online video consultations and other

709
00:29:57,740 --> 00:29:54,900
electronic means as far as

710
00:29:59,570 --> 00:29:57,750
self-diagnosis goes however we seem to

711
00:30:02,270 --> 00:29:59,580
be in the same habits as we were five

712
00:30:05,330 --> 00:30:02,280
years ago Google is just too damn

713
00:30:06,920 --> 00:30:05,340

convenient if not completely accurate to

714

00:30:08,810 --> 00:30:06,930

overlook as a symptom checking

715

00:30:10,550 --> 00:30:08,820

contraction when you have a sore throat

716

00:30:13,010 --> 00:30:10,560

and you want to know if it's just a cold

717

00:30:16,400 --> 00:30:13,020

or that rare neck eating parasite you've

718

00:30:18,470 --> 00:30:16,410

heard about I decided to do a little

719

00:30:21,410 --> 00:30:18,480

experiment to compare dr. Google with

720

00:30:24,740 --> 00:30:21,420

real doctors I entered three symptoms

721

00:30:27,260 --> 00:30:24,750

into Google one by one for each symptom

722

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:27,270

I recorded the first three possible

723

00:30:31,010 --> 00:30:29,010

diagnoses that came up in my search

724

00:30:34,160 --> 00:30:31,020

results regardless of where they came

725

00:30:36,440 --> 00:30:34,170

from then I compared those possible

726

00:30:39,170 --> 00:30:36,450

diagnoses with advice from a range of

727

00:30:42,710 --> 00:30:39,180

medical experts including a GP and an

728

00:30:45,080 --> 00:30:42,720

emergency specialist the questions I

729

00:30:47,870 --> 00:30:45,090

asked the doctors were what would you

730

00:30:50,990 --> 00:30:47,880

ask the patient what tests would you do

731

00:30:54,550 --> 00:30:51,000

and in your experience what's the most

732

00:30:57,700 --> 00:30:54,560

common diagnosis for this symptom

733

00:31:00,340 --> 00:30:57,710

symptom one was a three-day headache

734

00:31:02,950 --> 00:31:00,350

when I entered three-day headache into

735

00:31:07,200 --> 00:31:02,960

Google the first three suggested results

736

00:31:11,110 --> 00:31:07,210

were a brain tumor aneurysm or migraine

737

00:31:13,419 --> 00:31:11,120

the humanist birds I consulted would ask

738

00:31:15,760 --> 00:31:13,429

questions such as what are the symptoms

739

00:31:18,399 --> 00:31:15,770

do you have what medications are

740

00:31:20,350 --> 00:31:18,409

alternative therapies do you use have

741

00:31:24,460 --> 00:31:20,360

you had a headache like this before and

742

00:31:26,350 --> 00:31:24,470

what's your medical history they said

743

00:31:29,620 --> 00:31:26,360

they would perform neurological tests

744

00:31:32,470 --> 00:31:29,630

for weakness or abnormal reflexes check

745

00:31:35,230 --> 00:31:32,480

for fever and infection and depending on

746

00:31:39,909 --> 00:31:35,240

the patient's medical history order CT

747

00:31:41,950 --> 00:31:39,919

or MRI scans the most common diagnosis

748

00:31:43,960 --> 00:31:41,960

for persistent headaches are according

749

00:31:47,980 --> 00:31:43,970

to the doctors I asked migraine or

750

00:31:50,669 --> 00:31:47,990

tension headache the next symptom I

751
00:31:53,440 --> 00:31:50,679
asked Google about was swollen ankles

752
00:31:55,690 --> 00:31:53,450
google offered up heart disease kidney

753
00:31:59,680 --> 00:31:55,700
failure or liver failure as the first

754
00:32:01,180 --> 00:31:59,690
three diagnosis when I asked my medical

755
00:32:03,549 --> 00:32:01,190
peps they said they would want to

756
00:32:06,549 --> 00:32:03,559
investigate any recent ankle injuries

757
00:32:09,519 --> 00:32:06,559
any history of heart disease or varicose

758
00:32:11,680 --> 00:32:09,529
veins whether the swelling is worse at

759
00:32:13,480 --> 00:32:11,690
certain times of day and the medications

760
00:32:16,750 --> 00:32:13,490
are alternative treatments the patient

761
00:32:18,250 --> 00:32:16,760
is taking they would listen to the

762
00:32:21,970 --> 00:32:18,260
patient's heart beat and check their

763
00:32:24,010 --> 00:32:21,980

pulse examine the legs for DVT check

764

00:32:26,470 --> 00:32:24,020

their lungs skin and eyes for

765

00:32:29,350 --> 00:32:26,480

inflammation and if heart problems were

766

00:32:34,060 --> 00:32:29,360

suspected auto cardiac tests such as an

767

00:32:36,159 --> 00:32:34,070

echocardiogram or electrocardiograph the

768

00:32:38,260 --> 00:32:36,169

most common diagnosis for swollen ankles

769

00:32:41,409 --> 00:32:38,270

my experts came across were varicose

770

00:32:43,659 --> 00:32:41,419

veins and fluid buildup the last symptom

771

00:32:47,110 --> 00:32:43,669

I asked dr. Google to consider was a

772

00:32:48,840 --> 00:32:47,120

sharp pain in the belly dr. Google

773

00:32:50,950 --> 00:32:48,850

quickly served up appendicitis

774

00:32:55,330 --> 00:32:50,960

gallstones and pregnancy as

775

00:32:57,789 --> 00:32:55,340

possibilities my real life doctor people

776

00:33:00,760 --> 00:32:57,799

wanted to know how long I'd had the pain

777

00:33:02,980 --> 00:33:00,770

whether I had any other symptoms when

778

00:33:05,440 --> 00:33:02,990

the pain was at its worst what my bowel

779

00:33:07,600 --> 00:33:05,450

movements were like what medications are

780

00:33:11,350 --> 00:33:07,610

alternative therapies are used what my

781

00:33:14,260 --> 00:33:11,360

diet was like and my medical history

782

00:33:16,210 --> 00:33:14,270

according to my chosen experts the most

783

00:33:17,590 --> 00:33:16,220

frequently diagnosed conditions for this

784

00:33:22,720 --> 00:33:17,600

sort of abdominal pain are

785

00:33:25,210 --> 00:33:22,730

gastroenteritis and constipation to sum

786

00:33:27,430 --> 00:33:25,220

up my not very scientific findings

787

00:33:29,710 --> 00:33:27,440

there's no question that dr. Google

788

00:33:32,020 --> 00:33:29,720

beats human doctors hands down for speed

789

00:33:33,880 --> 00:33:32,030

convenience and the sheer volume of

790

00:33:36,460 --> 00:33:33,890

information it can provide for self

791

00:33:38,590 --> 00:33:36,470

diagnosis of symptoms but it's not

792

00:33:40,630 --> 00:33:38,600

nearly as good at asking patients the

793

00:33:43,350 --> 00:33:40,640

right questions and making educated

794

00:33:46,060 --> 00:33:43,360

deductions from patient responses as a

795

00:33:48,220 --> 00:33:46,070

three-dimensional human doctor Google

796

00:33:50,289 --> 00:33:48,230

can't spot a skin cancer here a heart

797

00:33:55,240 --> 00:33:50,299

murmur or feel that squishy bit on your

798

00:34:20,919 --> 00:33:55,250

leg now as in 2011 dr. Google must be

799

00:34:23,680 --> 00:34:20,929

used with caution the skeptic zone live

800

00:34:27,129 --> 00:34:23,690

a special live recording of this very

801
00:34:30,369 --> 00:34:27,139
podcast at the Occidental hotel in

802
00:34:32,859 --> 00:34:30,379
Sydney just near we need station 43 York

803
00:34:36,340 --> 00:34:32,869
Street this is part of skeptics in the

804
00:34:38,830 --> 00:34:36,350
pub join me in the skeptic zone crew for

805
00:34:41,740 --> 00:34:38,840
live reports and interviews prize

806
00:34:43,780 --> 00:34:41,750
giveaways on the night everybody's

807
00:34:46,899 --> 00:34:43,790
welcome but for more information and to

808
00:34:49,629 --> 00:34:46,909
reserve your place visit [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) /a

809
00:34:51,730 --> 00:34:49,639
ust skeptics there will be a link in

810
00:34:55,030 --> 00:34:51,740
this week show notes see you there at

811
00:34:57,359 --> 00:34:55,040
the skeptic zone live Thursday the sixth

812
00:35:30,870 --> 00:34:57,369
of October at the Occidental hotel

813
00:35:37,589 --> 00:35:33,460

now it's come to our attention in the

814

00:35:40,829 --> 00:35:37,599

last week or so that the movie the

815

00:35:46,779 --> 00:35:40,839

documentary you can't see the air quotes

816

00:35:49,359 --> 00:35:46,789

vexed Bakst is a scheduled slated to be

817

00:35:53,440 --> 00:35:49,369

shown here in Australia at a regional

818

00:35:56,710 --> 00:35:53,450

Film Festival which is the Castlemaine

819

00:36:01,120 --> 00:35:56,720

local and international film festival or

820

00:36:03,519 --> 00:36:01,130

cliff CL iff for short now this is in

821

00:36:05,170 --> 00:36:03,529

the state of Victoria now I was

822

00:36:07,240 --> 00:36:05,180

contacted a little while ago by a

823

00:36:10,690 --> 00:36:07,250

concerned member of the public who noted

824

00:36:13,630 --> 00:36:10,700

this movie was slated to appear and

825

00:36:15,609 --> 00:36:13,640

since then this story has really

826

00:36:19,599 --> 00:36:15,619

developed some legs it's really taken

827

00:36:22,019 --> 00:36:19,609

off and I think the best summary of this

828

00:36:25,269 --> 00:36:22,029

affair can be found once again at

829

00:36:30,009 --> 00:36:25,279

reasonable Hank reasonable Hank calm

830

00:36:31,420 --> 00:36:30,019

where Hank and his snoops have come up

831

00:36:34,799 --> 00:36:31,430

with some very interesting information

832

00:36:38,980 --> 00:36:34,809

indeed let me give you an overview of

833

00:36:41,589 --> 00:36:38,990

Hanks blog post on this issue as posted

834

00:36:43,539 --> 00:36:41,599

on the twentieth of sep tember victorian

835

00:36:47,079 --> 00:36:43,549

film festival embroiled in

836

00:36:50,529 --> 00:36:47,089

anti-vaccination social media train

837

00:36:53,049 --> 00:36:50,539

wreck on friday the 16th of sep tember a

838

00:36:55,029 --> 00:36:53,059

little before lunchtime i was alerted to

839

00:36:57,999 --> 00:36:55,039

an upcoming showing of andrew wakefield

840

00:37:00,819 --> 00:36:58,009

dishonest anti-vaccination vanity film

841

00:37:03,549 --> 00:37:00,829

waxed at a victorian regional film

842

00:37:05,950 --> 00:37:03,559

festival called cliff castlemaine local

843

00:37:08,170 --> 00:37:05,960

and international film festival the

844

00:37:11,499 --> 00:37:08,180

festival has been promoted by the

845

00:37:14,500 --> 00:37:11,509

president of the discredited australian

846

00:37:17,620 --> 00:37:14,510

vaccination skeptics network Tasha David

847

00:37:20,980 --> 00:37:17,630

on the node jab no pay no way

848

00:37:22,990 --> 00:37:20,990

anti-vaccination protests event page now

849

00:37:26,170 --> 00:37:23,000

Hank provides us with the screen capture

850

00:37:27,670 --> 00:37:26,180

their there is a film festival in

851
00:37:30,550 --> 00:37:27,680
castlemaine Victoria that will be

852
00:37:32,950 --> 00:37:30,560
showing vax on octob eight if you can

853
00:37:35,110 --> 00:37:32,960
get there and support the first official

854
00:37:38,050 --> 00:37:35,120
screening of this must-see documentary

855
00:37:41,050 --> 00:37:38,060
please do and together with a link for

856
00:37:42,820 --> 00:37:41,060
tickets Hank goes on I tweeted that

857
00:37:45,880 --> 00:37:42,830
screenshot along with the following

858
00:37:47,980 --> 00:37:45,890
screenshot from the cliff web page

859
00:37:51,670 --> 00:37:47,990
featuring the anti-vaccination film of

860
00:37:54,280 --> 00:37:51,680
note please see who is cliff tab at the

861
00:37:57,280 --> 00:37:54,290
top of this screenshot will need that

862
00:37:58,950 --> 00:37:57,290
for later and Hank once again provides

863
00:38:02,290 --> 00:37:58,960

us with the screenshot from the

864

00:38:04,960 --> 00:38:02,300

festival's main page and at the top

865

00:38:07,600 --> 00:38:04,970

there is a link a tab that says who is

866

00:38:09,760 --> 00:38:07,610

cliff Tasha David also promoted the

867

00:38:12,970 --> 00:38:09,770

festival on the Australian vaccination

868

00:38:16,570 --> 00:38:12,980

skeptics Network Facebook page on Friday

869

00:38:20,620 --> 00:38:16,580

man once again the screen shot is

870

00:38:23,110 --> 00:38:20,630

provided with her posting kasha David

871

00:38:25,270 --> 00:38:23,120

shared it on the avian Facebook page on

872

00:38:27,940 --> 00:38:25,280

Saturday once again another screenshot

873

00:38:31,660 --> 00:38:27,950

Tasha David also promoted the event in

874

00:38:34,540 --> 00:38:31,670

the vax australia facebook group with

875

00:38:36,760 --> 00:38:34,550

more screenshots and goes on when the

876

00:38:39,190 --> 00:38:36,770

president of a disreputable callous

877

00:38:40,990 --> 00:38:39,200

manatee vaccination organization which

878

00:38:43,900 --> 00:38:41,000

is the recipient of a public health

879

00:38:46,600 --> 00:38:43,910

warning is your ally in the promotion of

880

00:38:49,210 --> 00:38:46,610

one of your films you really need to sit

881

00:38:52,320 --> 00:38:49,220

back and introspect don't you think

882

00:38:54,790 --> 00:38:52,330

wouldn't you that vax tis a dishonest

883

00:38:56,680 --> 00:38:54,800

exposition is not news to the

884

00:38:59,280 --> 00:38:56,690

evidenced-based researchers health

885

00:39:03,490 --> 00:38:59,290

professionals and journalists for an

886

00:39:05,440 --> 00:39:03,500

exquisite explanation of the quote cdc

887

00:39:07,630 --> 00:39:05,450

whistleblower in quote manufactured

888

00:39:11,040 --> 00:39:07,640

controversy which is at the heart of the

889

00:39:15,280 --> 00:39:11,050

subject matter please refer to this post

890

00:39:17,440 --> 00:39:15,290

MMR the cdc and brain hooker a guide for

891

00:39:20,050 --> 00:39:17,450

parents and the media and you can click

892

00:39:22,090 --> 00:39:20,060

that link if you visit this blog which i

893

00:39:24,300 --> 00:39:22,100

will be linking to in the show notes in

894

00:39:26,740 --> 00:39:24,310

a film review for The Hollywood Reporter

895

00:39:27,470 --> 00:39:26,750

infectious disease specialist dr. Paul

896

00:39:31,160 --> 00:39:27,480

offered

897

00:39:34,700 --> 00:39:31,170

wrote if MMR really does cause autism

898

00:39:37,270 --> 00:39:34,710

why haven't the link been found in 15

899

00:39:39,770 --> 00:39:37,280

other studies many of which included

900

00:39:43,310 --> 00:39:39,780

african-americans and almost all of

901
00:39:45,620 --> 00:39:43,320
which didn't involve the CDC there are

902
00:39:49,180 --> 00:39:45,630
the whistle blows who just haven't come

903
00:39:52,220 --> 00:39:49,190
forward yet the real explanation for vax

904
00:39:55,310 --> 00:39:52,230
revelations isn't conspiracy or hidden

905
00:39:57,500 --> 00:39:55,320
data yet something else when compared

906
00:40:00,349 --> 00:39:57,510
with their Caucasian counterparts

907
00:40:02,840 --> 00:40:00,359
african-american boys in Atlanta in 1994

908
00:40:05,810 --> 00:40:02,850
were under vaccinated in order to

909
00:40:08,120 --> 00:40:05,820
qualify for autism support programs this

910
00:40:10,550 --> 00:40:08,130
subset of under vaccinated children with

911
00:40:12,560 --> 00:40:10,560
autism had to get vaccinated in other

912
00:40:15,500 --> 00:40:12,570
words it wasn't the MMR that caused

913
00:40:17,680 --> 00:40:15,510

autism it was the diagnosis of autism

914

00:40:20,900 --> 00:40:17,690

that had caused them to get there are

915

00:40:25,640 --> 00:40:20,910

not surprisingly this is never explained

916

00:40:27,920 --> 00:40:25,650

in the film man Hank goes on to quote

917

00:40:31,250 --> 00:40:27,930

some more examples from the media which

918

00:40:34,550 --> 00:40:31,260

you can peruse for yourself on Friday I

919

00:40:37,550 --> 00:40:34,560

tagged cliff in a tweet after finding

920

00:40:39,590 --> 00:40:37,560

their handle cliff deleted their Twitter

921

00:40:42,410 --> 00:40:39,600

account within the two following days

922

00:40:45,050 --> 00:40:42,420

many others also tweeted their

923

00:40:47,599 --> 00:40:45,060

displeasure happy festival organizers

924

00:40:50,599 --> 00:40:47,609

and we have a screen capture from

925

00:40:54,910 --> 00:40:50,609

reasonable Hank himself and his tweet

926

00:40:59,930 --> 00:40:54,920

says film festival organizers at cliff

927

00:41:03,410 --> 00:40:59,940

0408 9876 care little for the health of

928

00:41:07,910 --> 00:41:03,420

babies hashtag stop avian hashtag jill

929

00:41:10,280 --> 00:41:07,920

hennessy MP hashtag spring st cliff

930

00:41:12,440 --> 00:41:10,290

responded to both me and my friend

931

00:41:14,810 --> 00:41:12,450

shelly shelly by the way is our reporter

932

00:41:17,150 --> 00:41:14,820

shelly stockin with the same response

933

00:41:18,920 --> 00:41:17,160

which was aimed at claiming disinterest

934

00:41:22,370 --> 00:41:18,930

in the subject matter of Wakefield's

935

00:41:25,640 --> 00:41:22,380

fraudulent film and the tweet from cliff

936

00:41:27,620 --> 00:41:25,650

reads at reasonable underscore Hank we

937

00:41:29,870 --> 00:41:27,630

hope you have seen the movie we don't

938

00:41:32,630 --> 00:41:29,880

necessarily agree with the ideas in any

939

00:41:35,090 --> 00:41:32,640

film shown we want viewers to decide

940

00:41:37,700 --> 00:41:35,100

those of us who have been following the

941

00:41:41,090 --> 00:41:37,710

tactics of the anti-vaxxers and their

942

00:41:43,190 --> 00:41:41,100

apologists for some time knew precisely

943

00:41:44,720 --> 00:41:43,200

what was it plain an attempt to frame

944

00:41:47,180 --> 00:41:44,730

the film's viewing as a legitimate

945

00:41:50,840 --> 00:41:47,190

debate between equal opposing camps

946

00:41:52,640 --> 00:41:50,850

which it is not philosopher dr. Patrick

947

00:41:54,260 --> 00:41:52,650

Stokes is one of those who is

948

00:41:56,150 --> 00:41:54,270

well-versed in the tactics of the

949

00:41:58,280 --> 00:41:56,160

anti-vaccination lobby man its

950

00:42:02,660 --> 00:41:58,290

supporters and Patrick Stokes has

951
00:42:06,080 --> 00:42:02,670
tweeted and seen via a screenshot not

952
00:42:08,210 --> 00:42:06,090
good enough this is not a difference of

953
00:42:11,720 --> 00:42:08,220
opinion topic why are you giving

954
00:42:14,510 --> 00:42:11,730
platform to anti vax lies and goes on

955
00:42:17,390 --> 00:42:14,520
what followed was a social media train

956
00:42:20,090 --> 00:42:17,400
wreck which was played out in an attempt

957
00:42:23,090 --> 00:42:20,100
to erase questions of organizers bias

958
00:42:25,310 --> 00:42:23,100
which would cast doubt on cliffs

959
00:42:28,280 --> 00:42:25,320
attempts to appear to be merely a

960
00:42:31,550 --> 00:42:28,290
disinterested player a provocateur of

961
00:42:33,950 --> 00:42:31,560
uneasy disclosure now Hank puts up a new

962
00:42:37,490 --> 00:42:33,960
screenshot and says this screen shot was

963
00:42:41,960 --> 00:42:37,500

taken from a Wayback Machine snapshot on

964

00:42:44,530 --> 00:42:41,970

always 13th 2016 as we can see the who

965

00:42:47,150 --> 00:42:44,540

is cliff tab as referred to earlier

966

00:42:50,840 --> 00:42:47,160

clearly shows that the leading organizer

967

00:42:54,080 --> 00:42:50,850

or at least the top position of the list

968

00:42:57,320 --> 00:42:54,090

of organizers is Nicky valentini and

969

00:42:59,300 --> 00:42:57,330

Hank has that screenshot and Hank goes

970

00:43:01,880 --> 00:42:59,310

on to say after me and many friends

971

00:43:05,000 --> 00:43:01,890

started looking into the organizers the

972

00:43:07,730 --> 00:43:05,010

who is cliff page was deleted from the

973

00:43:11,060 --> 00:43:07,740

cliff website thanks to friends with

974

00:43:14,060 --> 00:43:11,070

Swift minds and quick fingers we were

975

00:43:16,640 --> 00:43:14,070

able to retain this screenshot of an

976
00:43:20,870 --> 00:43:16,650
anti-vaccination post promoting Tasha

977
00:43:23,450 --> 00:43:20,880
David's anti-tax petition from the

978
00:43:26,870 --> 00:43:23,460
facebook profile of a cliff organizer

979
00:43:28,940 --> 00:43:26,880
Nicki valentini and the postings is a

980
00:43:30,860 --> 00:43:28,950
meme there's a little baby there a

981
00:43:34,130 --> 00:43:30,870
little oil a young child looking a

982
00:43:36,770 --> 00:43:34,140
little bit dumb sad I suppose there has

983
00:43:39,050 --> 00:43:36,780
to be a choice minister Scott Morrison

984
00:43:41,150 --> 00:43:39,060
don't punish parents for making an

985
00:43:45,320 --> 00:43:41,160
informed choice about their children's

986
00:43:47,980 --> 00:43:45,330
health all parents deserve dot and I am

987
00:43:50,450 --> 00:43:47,990
it's a link to a petition on change.org

988
00:43:53,120 --> 00:43:50,460

the profile and therefore the

989

00:43:54,950 --> 00:43:53,130

anti-vaccination post as well has been

990

00:43:57,230 --> 00:43:54,960

deleted from facebook

991

00:43:59,480 --> 00:43:57,240

but it wasn't deleted before valentini

992

00:44:01,609 --> 00:43:59,490

and tempted to hide her anti-vaccination

993

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:01,619

affiliations with a quick attempt at a

994

00:44:07,820 --> 00:44:05,010

name change so we're before the posting

995

00:44:10,990 --> 00:44:07,830

had her own name the new posting which

996

00:44:14,750 --> 00:44:11,000

is identical is under somebody called

997

00:44:17,420 --> 00:44:14,760

Modi num num we expect this behavior in

998

00:44:19,640 --> 00:44:17,430

fact we are surprised when an organizer

999

00:44:22,490 --> 00:44:19,650

or a venue holds up their hands

1000

00:44:25,370 --> 00:44:22,500

immediately and says fair cop we were

1001
00:44:27,920 --> 00:44:25,380
wrong in quote it doesn't happen very

1002
00:44:30,260 --> 00:44:27,930
often sometimes it takes a while for a

1003
00:44:31,940 --> 00:44:30,270
venue or an organizer to acquaint

1004
00:44:34,339 --> 00:44:31,950
themselves with the subject matter

1005
00:44:37,130 --> 00:44:34,349
before making a decision in the interest

1006
00:44:39,170 --> 00:44:37,140
of Public Health and babies usually once

1007
00:44:41,839 --> 00:44:39,180
a venue works out that they have been

1008
00:44:44,599 --> 00:44:41,849
taken for chumps by the anti-vaccination

1009
00:44:47,690 --> 00:44:44,609
activists like the venues who all

1010
00:44:49,849 --> 00:44:47,700
canceled events for the 2015 speaking

1011
00:44:52,579 --> 00:44:49,859
tour of Public Health enemy Cherie

1012
00:44:54,710 --> 00:44:52,589
Tenpenny they will do the right thing

1013
00:44:57,290 --> 00:44:54,720

especially when it starts looking

1014

00:44:59,440 --> 00:44:57,300

awkward for public relations and the

1015

00:45:02,390 --> 00:44:59,450

shareholders but we are very used to

1016

00:45:05,120 --> 00:45:02,400

anti-vaccination apologists trying to

1017

00:45:07,700 --> 00:45:05,130

treat everyone like chumps like they

1018

00:45:11,839 --> 00:45:07,710

don't have any skin in their particular

1019

00:45:14,900 --> 00:45:11,849

game they do they just know how bad it

1020

00:45:18,170 --> 00:45:14,910

looks so they attempt to hide it and all

1021

00:45:22,660 --> 00:45:18,180

the babies can go to hell and Hank ends

1022

00:45:26,150 --> 00:45:22,670

this post with a very interesting note

1023

00:45:30,920 --> 00:45:26,160

one of the partners of the film festival

1024

00:45:32,620 --> 00:45:30,930

is the mount Alexander Shire Council the

1025

00:45:35,660 --> 00:45:32,630

mount Alexander Shire Council's

1026
00:45:38,570 --> 00:45:35,670
immunization page is here link provided

1027
00:45:41,200 --> 00:45:38,580
the mount Alexander shy council's

1028
00:45:45,349 --> 00:45:41,210
contact pages here also another link

1029
00:45:49,089 --> 00:45:45,359
this is this is a very important issue

1030
00:45:51,890 --> 00:45:49,099
on this matter and one that our own

1031
00:45:53,630 --> 00:45:51,900
Heidi Robertson the raw skeptic from the

1032
00:45:55,480 --> 00:45:53,640
northern rivers of vaccination

1033
00:45:59,150 --> 00:45:55,490
supporters took full advantage of and

1034
00:46:03,470 --> 00:45:59,160
she wrote to the Alexander Shire Council

1035
00:46:06,050 --> 00:46:03,480
here is her letter from Heidi Robinson I

1036
00:46:08,510 --> 00:46:06,060
am writing to express my dismay that

1037
00:46:09,240 --> 00:46:08,520
your partnership with cliff castle lane

1038
00:46:12,090 --> 00:46:09,250

local and

1039

00:46:14,070 --> 00:46:12,100

International Film Festival essentially

1040

00:46:16,230 --> 00:46:14,080

means that you are lending them support

1041

00:46:19,050 --> 00:46:16,240

for their screening of the

1042

00:46:22,230 --> 00:46:19,060

anti-vaccination documentary backed I

1043

00:46:23,850 --> 00:46:22,240

find it disturbing that as an Australian

1044

00:46:26,190 --> 00:46:23,860

government agency who supports

1045

00:46:30,510 --> 00:46:26,200

immunization with a link to their very

1046

00:46:33,270 --> 00:46:30,520

own page on the topic that you would

1047

00:46:35,970 --> 00:46:33,280

lend your support to such an event this

1048

00:46:38,190 --> 00:46:35,980

event is purely and simply a threat to

1049

00:46:40,950 --> 00:46:38,200

public health the person who made and

1050

00:46:43,050 --> 00:46:40,960

produced this film was struck off the

1051
00:46:45,690 --> 00:46:43,060
medical register after he was found

1052
00:46:48,060 --> 00:46:45,700
guilty of fraud and unethical medical

1053
00:46:52,200 --> 00:46:48,070
procedures on children relating to his

1054
00:46:54,780 --> 00:46:52,210
fudged data surrounding the MMR vaccine

1055
00:46:57,540 --> 00:46:54,790
this is not as these people would have

1056
00:46:59,550 --> 00:46:57,550
you believe an issue of free speech the

1057
00:47:02,010 --> 00:46:59,560
makers and producers have made their

1058
00:47:05,340 --> 00:47:02,020
statements and positions quite clearly

1059
00:47:07,710 --> 00:47:05,350
in many media outlets and social media

1060
00:47:10,920 --> 00:47:07,720
platforms so they are hardly being

1061
00:47:12,960 --> 00:47:10,930
suppressed Council does not have to

1062
00:47:15,300 --> 00:47:12,970
support the platform for this dangerous

1063
00:47:18,180 --> 00:47:15,310

nonsense and I would appreciate it if

1064

00:47:21,000 --> 00:47:18,190

you withdrew your support and made a

1065

00:47:23,610 --> 00:47:21,010

public statement to this effect thank

1066

00:47:25,950 --> 00:47:23,620

you for your time and here's a letter

1067

00:47:29,150 --> 00:47:25,960

written to the council by Sarah Turnbull

1068

00:47:32,400 --> 00:47:29,160

who also kindly got in touch with me

1069

00:47:35,160 --> 00:47:32,410

dear sir or madam I am writing to

1070

00:47:37,860 --> 00:47:35,170

suggest that the council make up for its

1071

00:47:40,860 --> 00:47:37,870

involvement in showing vax to the

1072

00:47:43,830 --> 00:47:40,870

anti-vaccination documentary by making a

1073

00:47:48,930 --> 00:47:43,840

donation to the following charitable

1074

00:47:50,910 --> 00:47:48,940

fund with a link to light for Riley this

1075

00:47:54,030 --> 00:47:50,920

fund was set up by the parents of Riley

1076
00:47:55,890 --> 00:47:54,040
Hughes this might go some way towards

1077
00:47:59,490 --> 00:47:55,900
addressing the public health and public

1078
00:48:03,060 --> 00:47:59,500
health relations disaster this incident

1079
00:48:05,370 --> 00:48:03,070
has caused and our reporter show each

1080
00:48:07,950 --> 00:48:05,380
token that's also chimed in the amount

1081
00:48:09,450 --> 00:48:07,960
alexander shire council i am concerned

1082
00:48:11,760 --> 00:48:09,460
about your partnership with the

1083
00:48:14,280 --> 00:48:11,770
Castlemaine local and international film

1084
00:48:16,740 --> 00:48:14,290
festival as i feel it represents a

1085
00:48:18,950 --> 00:48:16,750
conflict of interest with regard to

1086
00:48:20,670 --> 00:48:18,960
public health the first of all is

1087
00:48:22,800 --> 00:48:20,680
unapologetically showing the

1088
00:48:25,680 --> 00:48:22,810

anti-vaccination film by

1089

00:48:28,170 --> 00:48:25,690

struck-off dr. Andrew Wakefield which

1090

00:48:30,600 --> 00:48:28,180

misleadingly brings into question the

1091

00:48:33,630 --> 00:48:30,610

safety and effectiveness of childhood

1092

00:48:36,270 --> 00:48:33,640

vaccines with no reliable evidence to

1093

00:48:38,370 --> 00:48:36,280

back it up given your commendable

1094

00:48:40,200 --> 00:48:38,380

support for and provision of

1095

00:48:42,990 --> 00:48:40,210

immunization services in the community

1096

00:48:46,110 --> 00:48:43,000

your partnership with this film festival

1097

00:48:48,560 --> 00:48:46,120

sends a conflicting message I fear that

1098

00:48:51,540 --> 00:48:48,570

the film will discourage viewers from

1099

00:48:53,850 --> 00:48:51,550

vaccinating their families as previous

1100

00:48:57,120 --> 00:48:53,860

publications and campaigns by Wakefield

1101
00:49:00,150 --> 00:48:57,130
have previously done I understand that

1102
00:49:03,270 --> 00:49:00,160
the cliff organizers are free to show

1103
00:49:05,790 --> 00:49:03,280
this film at their festival but I do not

1104
00:49:08,670 --> 00:49:05,800
understand why the council so clearly

1105
00:49:11,580 --> 00:49:08,680
committed to vaccination as a public

1106
00:49:13,470 --> 00:49:11,590
health initiative would support it thank

1107
00:49:16,560 --> 00:49:13,480
you for the opportunity to express my

1108
00:49:20,100 --> 00:49:16,570
concerns and by now I imagine there are

1109
00:49:24,930 --> 00:49:20,110
many many many many more letters of a

1110
00:49:27,720 --> 00:49:24,940
similar theme flooding into the council

1111
00:49:31,680 --> 00:49:27,730
chambers so thanks again to reasonable

1112
00:49:34,080 --> 00:49:31,690
Hank and his merry band I guess you

1113
00:49:36,750 --> 00:49:34,090

would say for doing such diligent good

1114

00:49:39,270 --> 00:49:36,760

work in finding out a lot about this

1115

00:49:42,090 --> 00:49:39,280

issue and it's also i noticed been

1116

00:49:44,340 --> 00:49:42,100

reported in other media outlets man

1117

00:49:46,290 --> 00:49:44,350

thank you also to Fiona O'Leary all the

1118

00:49:48,870 --> 00:49:46,300

way over there in Ireland who was a

1119

00:49:51,180 --> 00:49:48,880

guest on the skeptic zone way back in

1120

00:49:55,200 --> 00:49:51,190

july this year who was also been

1121

00:49:58,260 --> 00:49:55,210

fighting against the movement behind vax

1122

00:50:00,450 --> 00:49:58,270

in her part of the world as she was

1123

00:50:02,040 --> 00:50:00,460

horrified when she learned that this

1124

00:50:04,380 --> 00:50:02,050

film was to be shown in Australia and

1125

00:50:07,860 --> 00:50:04,390

she actually sent me some very very good

1126
00:50:09,420 --> 00:50:07,870
advice indeed about that so thank you

1127
00:50:11,370 --> 00:50:09,430
hank Thank You Fiona and thank you heidi

1128
00:50:14,460 --> 00:50:11,380
for all helping to contribute to this

1129
00:50:16,410 --> 00:50:14,470
story this week and we will keep skeptic

1130
00:50:28,250 --> 00:50:16,420
zone listen as up-to-date as this story

1131
00:50:36,400 --> 00:50:32,840
you told me

1132
00:50:39,529 --> 00:50:36,410
exist you

1133
00:50:41,690 --> 00:50:39,539
SI esta sample idiot hey Sal who guys

1134
00:50:43,910 --> 00:50:41,700
guys I just had the most amazing

1135
00:50:45,769 --> 00:50:43,920
experience what experience unders unders

1136
00:50:47,569 --> 00:50:45,779
have you been to the pub I told you not

1137
00:50:50,089 --> 00:50:47,579
to hang out with mash you know he was

1138
00:50:52,579 --> 00:50:50,099

blessed by peter Popoff no yellow no i'm

1139

00:50:54,950 --> 00:50:52,589

not talking about psychics it was a

1140

00:50:56,750 --> 00:50:54,960

really SP experience now you have been

1141

00:50:59,480 --> 00:50:56,760

to the pub either that or you've been

1142

00:51:01,910 --> 00:50:59,490

smoking something no pontus the ESB is

1143

00:51:04,010 --> 00:51:01,920

the European skeptics podcast it's the

1144

00:51:06,140 --> 00:51:04,020

most amazing thing you get to know so

1145

00:51:08,990 --> 00:51:06,150

much about skeptics and their activities

1146

00:51:11,120 --> 00:51:09,000

across Europe you know events hot topics

1147

00:51:13,309 --> 00:51:11,130

and interviews with lots of interesting

1148

00:51:15,079 --> 00:51:13,319

people oh wow cool by the way pointers

1149

00:51:17,480 --> 00:51:15,089

you just committed the false dichotomy

1150

00:51:20,329 --> 00:51:17,490

fallacy I guess that means I'm really

1151
00:51:22,370 --> 00:51:20,339
wrong yep and you can even learn about

1152
00:51:24,829 --> 00:51:22,380
those fallacies in the show and hear

1153
00:51:27,109 --> 00:51:24,839
about people spreading silly ideas you

1154
00:51:30,079 --> 00:51:27,119
should really check it out it's the ESP

1155
00:51:32,779 --> 00:51:30,089
the European skeptics podcast it's on

1156
00:51:35,120 --> 00:51:32,789
never weak alright so where can I get

1157
00:51:37,789 --> 00:51:35,130
this is the experience it sounds good

1158
00:51:40,849 --> 00:51:37,799
you can go online at the ESP do to you

1159
00:51:43,880 --> 00:51:40,859
follow it on twitter at es podcast

1160
00:51:46,010 --> 00:51:43,890
underscore EU or like the podcast on

1161
00:51:49,069 --> 00:51:46,020
facebook oh and you can also contact the

1162
00:51:52,849 --> 00:51:49,079
show by sending them an email to info at

1163
00:51:54,950 --> 00:51:52,859

the espp you and if you want to

1164

00:51:57,710 --> 00:51:54,960

subscribe do a quick search for the

1165

00:52:03,680 --> 00:51:57,720

european skeptic podcast on soundcloud

1166

00:52:07,340 --> 00:52:03,690

itunes or stitcher I don't know how you

1167

00:52:24,160 --> 00:52:19,530

you

1168

00:52:29,110 --> 00:52:24,170

skeptic zone this week and for those of

1169

00:52:31,420 --> 00:52:29,120

you in Sydney Auckland Melbourne and

1170

00:52:35,290 --> 00:52:31,430

Brisbane I hope you have the chance to

1171

00:52:38,280 --> 00:52:35,300

get along and here Ben Goldacre live on

1172

00:52:40,420 --> 00:52:38,290

stage and those people in Australia the

1173

00:52:43,840 --> 00:52:40,430

interviewer on stage will be none other

1174

00:52:45,910 --> 00:52:43,850

than dr. Brad McCoy well known from the

1175

00:52:48,760 --> 00:52:45,920

TV show embarrassing bodies down under

1176
00:52:50,950 --> 00:52:48,770
and a member of Australian skeptics to

1177
00:52:53,230 --> 00:52:50,960
boot coming up on next week's show I

1178
00:52:57,550 --> 00:52:53,240
think we'll be bringing you reports from

1179
00:53:00,820 --> 00:52:57,560
the paranormal convention main heart and

1180
00:53:04,420 --> 00:53:00,830
I will be heading to soon also hopefully

1181
00:53:05,980 --> 00:53:04,430
i chat with the author Lynn Kelly who

1182
00:53:07,480 --> 00:53:05,990
will be speaking at the Australian

1183
00:53:10,840 --> 00:53:07,490
skeptics dinner meeting in a couple of

1184
00:53:12,790 --> 00:53:10,850
days but for this week with them with

1185
00:53:15,180 --> 00:53:12,800
Henrietta and moored actually locked out

1186
00:53:17,650 --> 00:53:15,190
of the office the studio this time

1187
00:53:20,200 --> 00:53:17,660
sometimes I can see little paws coming

1188
00:53:22,510 --> 00:53:20,210

under the door trying to get in they do

1189

00:53:24,160 --> 00:53:22,520

like being with people but this week

1190

00:53:31,450 --> 00:53:24,170

this is Richard Saunders signing off

1191

00:53:33,090 --> 00:53:31,460

from Sydney Australia you've been

1192

00:53:36,610 --> 00:53:33,100

listening to the skeptics own podcast

1193

00:53:39,670 --> 00:53:36,620

visit our website at wwc a petting zoo

1194

00:53:43,540 --> 00:53:39,680

TV for contacts an archive of all

1195

00:53:45,850 --> 00:53:43,550

episodes since 2008 and our online store

1196

00:53:48,570 --> 00:53:45,860

please support the skeptic zone by

1197

00:53:51,580 --> 00:53:48,580

following us on twitter at skeptic zone

1198

00:53:54,640 --> 00:53:51,590

liking us on facebook and leaving a

1199

00:53:57,490 --> 00:53:54,650

review on iTunes you can also show your

1200

00:54:00,460 --> 00:53:57,500

support by subscribing via paypal for as

1201

00:54:02,230 --> 00:54:00,470

little as ninety-nine cents a week the

1202

00:54:03,850 --> 00:54:02,240

skeptic zone is an independent

1203

00:54:06,310 --> 00:54:03,860

production the views and opinions

1204

00:54:07,930 --> 00:54:06,320

expressed on the skeptic zone and not

1205

00:54:10,810 --> 00:54:07,940

necessarily those of Australian