

Show 487

THE
**SKEPTIC
ZONE**
PODCAST

www.skepticzone.tv

25 Feb 2018



Dr Paulie

Retracted letter about vaccine safety made potentially "slanderous" claims.

We chat to Susan Gerbic in the USA and Stuart Jones in Australia about what's it's like to do editing work for Guerrilla Skepticism on Wikipedia

Our new reporter Dr Paulie interviews Associate Professor Ken Harvey



Stuart Jones

1
00:00:09,100 --> 00:00:05,910

[Music]

2
00:00:11,830 --> 00:00:09,110

welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

3
00:00:13,910 --> 00:00:11,840

from Australia for science and reason

4
00:00:16,840 --> 00:00:13,920

[Music]

5
00:00:22,890 --> 00:00:16,850

[Applause]

6
00:00:25,390 --> 00:00:22,900

[Music]

7
00:00:28,569 --> 00:00:25,400

yes it's the skeptic zone podcast

8
00:00:31,300 --> 00:00:28,579

episode number 488 for the 25th of

9
00:00:34,869 --> 00:00:31,310

February 2018 richardsaunders here with

10
00:00:37,380 --> 00:00:34,879

you from a.m. look raining yes it's

11
00:00:39,460 --> 00:00:37,390

raining still humid Sydney Australia

12
00:00:42,040 --> 00:00:39,470

before we start thank you to those

13
00:00:45,009 --> 00:00:42,050

people who wrote to me and left comments

14

00:00:47,200 --> 00:00:45,019

expressing their sympathy as there you

15

00:00:49,840 --> 00:00:47,210

may recall last week I said I fell on my

16

00:00:52,689 --> 00:00:49,850

back and heard it luckily nothing was

17

00:00:56,410 --> 00:00:52,699

broken thank you I appreciate your your

18

00:00:58,450 --> 00:00:56,420

kind your kind thoughts it's the back is

19

00:01:03,580 --> 00:00:58,460

getting much better it's the tooth that

20

00:01:06,969 --> 00:01:03,590

oh dear it's one of the back bicuspid

21

00:01:09,550 --> 00:01:06,979

something or other up up at the top left

22

00:01:12,999 --> 00:01:09,560

and it looks like it's going to need a

23

00:01:16,060 --> 00:01:13,009

crown but the moment the nerve is acting

24

00:01:18,340 --> 00:01:16,070

up so the painkillers have kicked in so

25

00:01:20,919 --> 00:01:18,350

I think I should be able to do a skeptic

26

00:01:22,540 --> 00:01:20,929

zone podcast coming up on this week's

27

00:01:24,820 --> 00:01:22,550

show we're going to chat to susan gerbic

28

00:01:26,980 --> 00:01:24,830

from guerrilla skepticism on wikipedia

29

00:01:28,900 --> 00:01:26,990

which we do from time to time and I

30

00:01:30,969 --> 00:01:28,910

thought it would be interesting because

31

00:01:33,219 --> 00:01:30,979

we're always talking about it and

32

00:01:34,839 --> 00:01:33,229

advertising it saying why don't you

33

00:01:37,210 --> 00:01:34,849

become an editor for guerrilla

34

00:01:38,830 --> 00:01:37,220

skepticism and edit Wikipedia pages I

35

00:01:40,870 --> 00:01:38,840

thought it would be interesting to talk

36

00:01:43,449 --> 00:01:40,880

to an actual editor one here in

37

00:01:45,790 --> 00:01:43,459

Australia stuart jones and victoria who

38

00:01:48,969 --> 00:01:45,800

took up the call contacted susan gerbic

39

00:01:51,580 --> 00:01:48,979

and is now an editor so i have a chat

40

00:01:52,960 --> 00:01:51,590

with stuart and victoria and susan

41

00:01:55,630 --> 00:01:52,970

gerbic all the way over there in the

42

00:01:58,449 --> 00:01:55,640

united states and we find out what the

43

00:02:00,460 --> 00:01:58,459

process is is it enjoyable what can you

44

00:02:02,229 --> 00:02:00,470

learn and i think you'll find it very

45

00:02:03,999 --> 00:02:02,239

interesting and if you're considering

46

00:02:08,169 --> 00:02:04,009

being an editor for guerrilla skepticism

47

00:02:11,199 --> 00:02:08,179

on wikipedia this is the interview for

48

00:02:14,680 --> 00:02:11,209

you following that it's our new reporter

49

00:02:18,190 --> 00:02:14,690

dr. paul ii and let me read you her bio

50

00:02:21,160 --> 00:02:18,200

which is at skeptic zone TV dr. Pauly

51
00:02:25,119 --> 00:02:21,170
reporter and her segment is called let's

52
00:02:27,550 --> 00:02:25,129
have a random rant a random rant dr.

53
00:02:28,959 --> 00:02:27,560
paul ii is a senior research fellow at

54
00:02:31,780 --> 00:02:28,969
the center for research in

55
00:02:33,850 --> 00:02:31,790
evidence-based practice bond university

56
00:02:35,980 --> 00:02:33,860
she is also a practicing

57
00:02:39,190 --> 00:02:35,990
unity pharmacist and longtime skeptic

58
00:02:40,600 --> 00:02:39,200
originally from Melbourne in 2012 she

59
00:02:43,240 --> 00:02:40,610
helped organize the annual Australian

60
00:02:46,270 --> 00:02:43,250
skeptic on meeting that's the Australian

61
00:02:48,730 --> 00:02:46,280
skeptics convention now she's in sunny

62
00:02:50,770 --> 00:02:48,740
Queensland she is the Gold Coast

63
00:02:53,980 --> 00:02:50,780

skeptics current president and secretary

64

00:02:57,190 --> 00:02:53,990

and you can click the link to the gold

65

00:03:00,310 --> 00:02:57,200

coast skeptics at skeptic zone TV I'll

66

00:03:03,280 --> 00:03:00,320

add a link in dr. Pauly's segment there

67

00:03:05,410 --> 00:03:03,290

on this week's show notes down it's

68

00:03:07,210 --> 00:03:05,420

wonderful to have dr. Paul II on board a

69

00:03:09,550 --> 00:03:07,220

new report a very exciting I wrote a

70

00:03:11,440 --> 00:03:09,560

little less thin for witches you'll hear

71

00:03:14,530 --> 00:03:11,450

it later she said she liked head-banging

72

00:03:17,410 --> 00:03:14,540

music okay she's going to be talking to

73

00:03:19,479 --> 00:03:17,420

associate professor Ken Harvey now again

74

00:03:22,449 --> 00:03:19,489

you would have heard over the years on

75

00:03:25,090 --> 00:03:22,459

the skeptic zone interviews and reports

76
00:03:27,970 --> 00:03:25,100
about the TGA the therapeutics Goods

77
00:03:30,670 --> 00:03:27,980
Administration the overseeing body the

78
00:03:33,940 --> 00:03:30,680
people that put aust-r for registered or

79
00:03:37,210 --> 00:03:33,950
Aust Elfa listed on medication in

80
00:03:38,949 --> 00:03:37,220
Australia they oversee devices medicines

81
00:03:41,020 --> 00:03:38,959
that sort of thing and they've been

82
00:03:43,170 --> 00:03:41,030
coming under a lot of Chris's criticism

83
00:03:46,930 --> 00:03:43,180
lately because of the watering down of

84
00:03:48,520 --> 00:03:46,940
there what's the word their authority

85
00:03:52,720 --> 00:03:48,530
I'm not sure if that's quite the right

86
00:03:56,699 --> 00:03:52,730
word a lot of people are very concerned

87
00:03:59,410 --> 00:03:56,709
that things like pre-approval for

88
00:04:01,750 --> 00:03:59,420

assessment of therapeutic goods is being

89

00:04:04,330 --> 00:04:01,760

watered down this seems to be as

90

00:04:07,870 --> 00:04:04,340

reported last week a bizarre list of new

91

00:04:10,060 --> 00:04:07,880

indications like yin and yang and Qi and

92

00:04:14,560 --> 00:04:10,070

these sort of words coming in which is

93

00:04:16,509 --> 00:04:14,570

incredible and the complaints if people

94

00:04:17,680 --> 00:04:16,519

have complaints about medicine that they

95

00:04:20,500 --> 00:04:17,690

are the overseeing body

96

00:04:22,600 --> 00:04:20,510

well dr. Harvey is a longtime friend and

97

00:04:24,820 --> 00:04:22,610

critic of the TGA and he's going to be

98

00:04:28,600 --> 00:04:24,830

talking to dr. Pauli about the latest

99

00:04:31,240 --> 00:04:28,610

amendments to the TGA the laws the

100

00:04:34,540 --> 00:04:31,250

governor and some of the real concerns

101
00:04:36,190 --> 00:04:34,550
here and many of this have now bear in

102
00:04:39,430 --> 00:04:36,200
mind that this interview was conducted

103
00:04:40,960 --> 00:04:39,440
in less than ideal circumstances so

104
00:04:42,969 --> 00:04:40,970
there's a bit of background noise the

105
00:04:45,310 --> 00:04:42,979
connection wasn't all that clear but you

106
00:04:48,750 --> 00:04:45,320
can certainly hear everything and I

107
00:04:52,720 --> 00:04:50,950
regulation concerning medications

108
00:04:55,360 --> 00:04:52,730
anywhere will get a lot out of this

109
00:04:58,480 --> 00:04:55,370
interview let's have a random rant with

110
00:05:00,700 --> 00:04:58,490
dr. Paulie but before we start here's a

111
00:05:03,070 --> 00:05:00,710
little story that was just brought to my

112
00:05:05,230 --> 00:05:03,080
attention by our former reporter and

113
00:05:07,840 --> 00:05:05,240

vice president of the Australian

114

00:05:10,810 --> 00:05:07,850

skeptics Joe and Ben amou and it's all

115

00:05:13,780 --> 00:05:10,820

about scientific journals and their

116

00:05:17,290 --> 00:05:13,790

accountability when it comes to letters

117

00:05:21,130 --> 00:05:17,300

and papers published and retractions and

118

00:05:23,710 --> 00:05:21,140

we look to retraction watch tracking

119

00:05:26,500 --> 00:05:23,720

retractions as a window into the

120

00:05:28,150 --> 00:05:26,510

scientific process what an important

121

00:05:29,710 --> 00:05:28,160

website this is and I'll link in the

122

00:05:31,540 --> 00:05:29,720

show notes and I think you might find it

123

00:05:34,780 --> 00:05:31,550

very interesting especially the

124

00:05:36,780 --> 00:05:34,790

scientific academics out there published

125

00:05:40,690 --> 00:05:36,790

in February at retraction watch

126

00:05:43,980 --> 00:05:40,700

retraction watch calm retracted letter

127

00:05:48,040 --> 00:05:43,990

about vaccine safety made potentially

128

00:05:50,830 --> 00:05:48,050

slandorous claims last October David

129

00:05:53,950 --> 00:05:50,840

Hawks read a letter to the editor that

130

00:05:55,930 --> 00:05:53,960

shocked him it alleged Hawks and a

131

00:05:59,080 --> 00:05:55,940

colleague had lied about their

132

00:06:01,690 --> 00:05:59,090

professional affiliations Hawks told

133

00:06:06,010 --> 00:06:01,700

retraction watch that he had contacted

134

00:06:08,500 --> 00:06:06,020

the journal toxicology on October 19 to

135

00:06:11,500 --> 00:06:08,510

complain that the letter contained quote

136

00:06:13,480 --> 00:06:11,510

numerous factual errors and could

137

00:06:15,730 --> 00:06:13,490

adversely affect our professional

138

00:06:17,980 --> 00:06:15,740

standing end quote and requested the

139

00:06:21,100 --> 00:06:17,990

journal retracted as soon as possible

140

00:06:24,460 --> 00:06:21,110

Hawks told the editors of toxicology

141

00:06:26,590 --> 00:06:24,470

quote the claims about myself and Joann

142

00:06:29,200 --> 00:06:26,600

been amou are factually incorrect and we

143

00:06:31,210 --> 00:06:29,210

have received professional advice that

144

00:06:33,880 --> 00:06:31,220

they also could be considered slanderous

145

00:06:36,310 --> 00:06:33,890

and quote the journal retracted the

146

00:06:39,070 --> 00:06:36,320

letter yesterday four months after Hawks

147

00:06:41,680 --> 00:06:39,080

request the letter was co-authored by

148

00:06:43,690 --> 00:06:41,690

Christopher Shaw who has withdrawn three

149

00:06:46,300 --> 00:06:43,700

papers about vaccine safety in the past

150

00:06:48,460 --> 00:06:46,310

two years it was written in response to

151

00:06:51,340 --> 00:06:48,470

a letter by hawks and venom ooh that

152

00:06:53,710 --> 00:06:51,350

critiqued a 2016 paper by sure and his

153

00:06:56,680 --> 00:06:53,720

colleagues which had suggested a vaccine

154

00:07:00,100 --> 00:06:56,690

adjuvant might have negative effects the

155

00:07:02,740 --> 00:07:00,110

2016 paper has been cited seven times

156

00:07:05,770 --> 00:07:02,750

- Claire evades analytics web of

157

00:07:08,620 --> 00:07:05,780

science according to the notice quote

158

00:07:11,050 --> 00:07:08,630

this letter to the editor has been

159

00:07:13,180 --> 00:07:11,060

retracted at the request of the managing

160

00:07:15,250 --> 00:07:13,190

editor as it contained inappropriate

161

00:07:17,410 --> 00:07:15,260

statements about the affiliation of the

162

00:07:20,500 --> 00:07:17,420

authors of the earlier letter to the

163

00:07:25,450 --> 00:07:20,510

editor published by toxicology three

164

00:07:27,370 --> 00:07:25,460

eight nine twenty 1753 however evidence

165

00:07:29,700 --> 00:07:27,380

has been provided to the editor to

166

00:07:32,860 --> 00:07:29,710

support the affiliation of these authors

167

00:07:36,270 --> 00:07:32,870

apologies are offered to the readers for

168

00:07:39,910 --> 00:07:36,280

any inconvenience that this may cause

169

00:07:42,640 --> 00:07:39,920

main quote in September Shaw

170

00:07:45,160 --> 00:07:42,650

Christopher Exley of Kiel University in

171

00:07:47,080 --> 00:07:45,170

the UK and others fired back with a

172

00:07:48,820 --> 00:07:47,090

letter of their own in which they

173

00:07:52,030 --> 00:07:48,830

accused Hawkes and Ben amou of

174

00:07:54,640 --> 00:07:52,040

fabricating their affiliations quote

175

00:07:56,440 --> 00:07:54,650

Hawke suggesting correctly that he is

176

00:07:58,630 --> 00:07:56,450

currently a staff member at the

177

00:08:01,390 --> 00:07:58,640

University of Melbourne and neither of

178

00:08:04,150 --> 00:08:01,400

the affiliations given by Ben amou have

179

00:08:06,610 --> 00:08:04,160

ever heard of her men quote after

180

00:08:08,980 --> 00:08:06,620

reading the letter Hawkes provided the

181

00:08:11,110 --> 00:08:08,990

journal with proof that he works at the

182

00:08:14,350 --> 00:08:11,120

University of Melbourne in Victoria

183

00:08:16,630 --> 00:08:14,360

Australia and that Ben amou quote has

184

00:08:19,510 --> 00:08:16,640

written permission from Monash bioethics

185

00:08:21,700 --> 00:08:19,520

Center as a postgraduate student and

186

00:08:25,240 --> 00:08:21,710

teaching associate to list them as

187

00:08:28,150 --> 00:08:25,250

affiliations banquet and is a full-time

188

00:08:32,020 --> 00:08:28,160

employee of Austin health both in

189

00:08:34,630 --> 00:08:32,030

Victoria a commentator on pub appear who

190

00:08:36,670 --> 00:08:34,640

Hawke said was not him or Ben amou also

191

00:08:39,430 --> 00:08:36,680

pointed out potential issues with the

192

00:08:42,190 --> 00:08:39,440

author's 2016 paper and letter noting

193

00:08:45,340 --> 00:08:42,200

quote I have never seen a letter to the

194

00:08:47,620 --> 00:08:45,350

editor as unprofessional as this unquote

195

00:08:50,890 --> 00:08:47,630

Hawke said he was not really satisfied

196

00:08:52,870 --> 00:08:50,900

with the retraction notice quote the

197

00:08:55,090 --> 00:08:52,880

editors apologised to the readers but

198

00:08:57,730 --> 00:08:55,100

not to the author's venom and myself and

199

00:08:59,980 --> 00:08:57,740

who had to fight for over four months to

200

00:09:01,810 --> 00:08:59,990

have unfounded claims about us removed

201
00:09:06,610 --> 00:09:01,820
from a professional scientific journal

202
00:09:08,200 --> 00:09:06,620
and you can read the full statement at

203
00:09:09,850 --> 00:09:08,210
retraction watch that was just the

204
00:09:11,560 --> 00:09:09,860
edited highlights at retraction watch

205
00:09:14,020 --> 00:09:11,570
comm with a link in this week's show

206
00:09:16,320 --> 00:09:14,030
notes and I'm pleased for

207
00:09:19,740 --> 00:09:16,330
Johanne been amou and david hawks that

208
00:09:23,110 --> 00:09:19,750
this retraction at last was forthcoming

209
00:09:25,450 --> 00:09:23,120
although as david hawks points out the

210
00:09:28,570 --> 00:09:25,460
apology was not to them but to the

211
00:09:31,870 --> 00:09:28,580
readers and a big shout out to Joanne

212
00:09:33,220 --> 00:09:31,880
Ben amou and David Hawks and that's

213
00:09:35,280 --> 00:09:33,230

enough for me right now I'm gonna run

214

00:09:40,600 --> 00:09:35,290

downstairs and have something soft

215

00:09:43,600 --> 00:09:40,610

because of my tooth maybe some ice cream

216

00:09:45,610 --> 00:09:43,610

now who know though anything even

217

00:09:48,130 --> 00:09:45,620

slightly cold is really not very good

218

00:09:52,750 --> 00:09:48,140

for my tooth at the moment some warm ice

219

00:09:54,550 --> 00:09:52,760

cream hmm some jelly hmm no I run

220

00:09:58,970 --> 00:09:54,560

downstairs and decide about all that I

221

00:09:58,980 --> 00:10:18,380

[Music]

222

00:10:24,960 --> 00:10:22,050

and joining me now all the way from

223

00:10:27,030 --> 00:10:24,970

Salinas California end sale Victoria

224

00:10:30,269 --> 00:10:27,040

Australia we have susan gerbic from

225

00:10:33,900 --> 00:10:30,279

guerrilla skepticism on wikipedia and we

226

00:10:36,600 --> 00:10:33,910

also have one of the Australian editors

227

00:10:40,010 --> 00:10:36,610

of a guerrilla skepticism on Wikipedia

228

00:10:41,720 --> 00:10:40,020

Stewart Jones hello everybody Richard hi

229

00:10:44,550 --> 00:10:41,730

Susan

230

00:10:46,470 --> 00:10:44,560

and it's quite fun because thanks to

231

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:46,480

modern technology we're all doing a bit

232

00:10:49,590 --> 00:10:48,010

of a three-way conversation interview

233

00:10:51,990 --> 00:10:49,600

but I can see everybody and everybody

234

00:10:55,440 --> 00:10:52,000

can see me nothing's a secret anymore

235

00:10:58,530 --> 00:10:55,450

Susan no I'm really interested in what

236

00:11:00,480 --> 00:10:58,540

Stuart's gonna tell you today so I

237

00:11:02,250 --> 00:11:00,490

thought I'd give you both a call because

238

00:11:04,350 --> 00:11:02,260

Susan we interview you from time to time

239

00:11:06,300 --> 00:11:04,360

I'm the sceptic CERN and we run the

240

00:11:08,340 --> 00:11:06,310

promotions for guerrilla skepticism on

241

00:11:10,260 --> 00:11:08,350

Wikipedia and it occurred to me a lot of

242

00:11:12,690 --> 00:11:10,270

listeners might be interested to know

243

00:11:16,380 --> 00:11:12,700

what happens once they've contacted you

244

00:11:18,329 --> 00:11:16,390

what the process is and what the

245

00:11:20,880 --> 00:11:18,339

discovery process is Stewart you're a

246

00:11:22,680 --> 00:11:20,890

great case in point now you out of the

247

00:11:25,170 --> 00:11:22,690

blue one day you were inspired to

248

00:11:28,320 --> 00:11:25,180

contact Susan and maybe you can pick up

249

00:11:32,579 --> 00:11:28,330

the story what happened to you well

250

00:11:35,100 --> 00:11:32,589

Susan added me to the Facebook group

251
00:11:36,990 --> 00:11:35,110
which is a lot of fun secret Facebook

252
00:11:39,900 --> 00:11:37,000
group or not so secret and as we like to

253
00:11:41,640 --> 00:11:39,910
say and it gave me a link to a Google

254
00:11:44,130 --> 00:11:41,650
Drive with all the training material on

255
00:11:46,140 --> 00:11:44,140
it and a while went and you found all

256
00:11:48,630 --> 00:11:46,150
the materials you needed right on the

257
00:11:51,240 --> 00:11:48,640
the Google Drive huh yep they're all

258
00:11:52,860 --> 00:11:51,250
there every one of them so it wasn't a

259
00:11:54,810 --> 00:11:52,870
difficult process for you to learn the

260
00:11:57,420 --> 00:11:54,820
ropes as it were the the training was

261
00:12:00,480 --> 00:11:57,430
was fairly straightforward and I think

262
00:12:03,510 --> 00:12:00,490
you now are responsible for doing quite

263
00:12:05,400 --> 00:12:03,520

a bit of editing on Wikipedia a little

264

00:12:07,680 --> 00:12:05,410

bit not as much do you say that we use

265

00:12:09,960 --> 00:12:07,690

staff as I'd like but Susan's allow me

266

00:12:12,060 --> 00:12:09,970

to run off and do some other things as

267

00:12:14,730 --> 00:12:12,070

well but I think that having that

268

00:12:15,290 --> 00:12:14,740

freedom is very good as well very good

269

00:12:17,750 --> 00:12:15,300

part of it

270

00:12:21,199 --> 00:12:17,760

but time I've written written three

271

00:12:24,110 --> 00:12:21,209

pages I think four GS aw and written

272

00:12:25,940 --> 00:12:24,120

about four or five of my own and what

273

00:12:27,500 --> 00:12:25,950

was some of the the topics or the pages

274

00:12:30,079 --> 00:12:27,510

from a sceptical point of view that

275

00:12:31,730 --> 00:12:30,089

you've been working on I've been working

276

00:12:33,290 --> 00:12:31,740

on that on blue whale

277

00:12:36,650 --> 00:12:33,300

okay claim much credit for that because

278

00:12:39,380 --> 00:12:36,660

I read of their in London has done a lot

279

00:12:41,690 --> 00:12:39,390

of work there Tracey Spicer who everyone

280

00:12:43,970 --> 00:12:41,700

in Australia knows she's a journalist

281

00:12:46,759 --> 00:12:43,980

who's he's running with the me to

282

00:12:48,740 --> 00:12:46,769

campaign and I'll write throughout the

283

00:12:50,960 --> 00:12:48,750

entire page for voluntary assisted dying

284

00:12:56,030 --> 00:12:50,970

in in Victoria which is which has just

285

00:12:57,980 --> 00:12:56,040

become law late last year so I wrote

286

00:12:59,360 --> 00:12:57,990

Anthony Pratt countless which was my

287

00:13:01,910 --> 00:12:59,370

first one that a lot of people would

288

00:13:05,360 --> 00:13:01,920

know a bit Anthony but he's called on by

289

00:13:07,759 --> 00:13:05,370

the media I mean times of conflict in in

290

00:13:09,880 --> 00:13:07,769

places and he's also he's a social

291

00:13:12,860 --> 00:13:09,890

psychologist who looks at scams as well

292

00:13:14,329 --> 00:13:12,870

and I well I mean you can't help I

293

00:13:15,829 --> 00:13:14,339

suppose when you do this sort of thing

294

00:13:17,420 --> 00:13:15,839

you you would be learning a lot

295

00:13:20,090 --> 00:13:17,430

personally yourself about these topics

296

00:13:21,769 --> 00:13:20,100

plenty I certainly learned a lot about

297

00:13:24,860 --> 00:13:21,779

urban myths and how they work

298

00:13:26,840 --> 00:13:24,870

from working on the blue whale game and

299

00:13:29,230 --> 00:13:26,850

sort of learned a lot about people in

300

00:13:31,130 --> 00:13:29,240

here they behave to the bit of

301

00:13:32,180 --> 00:13:31,140

creepypasta if you want to know what

302

00:13:34,910 --> 00:13:32,190

that is you can look it up on Wikipedia

303

00:13:35,620 --> 00:13:34,920

but mass mass hysteria that's on there

304

00:13:38,900 --> 00:13:35,630

as well

305

00:13:40,810 --> 00:13:38,910

it's certainly very interesting alright

306

00:13:43,220 --> 00:13:40,820

now I'm gonna ask you about the recent

307

00:13:45,769 --> 00:13:43,230

skeptic camp and I know you gave a talk

308

00:13:47,870 --> 00:13:45,779

there about editing Wikipedia but before

309

00:13:50,300 --> 00:13:47,880

we do that Susan is this sort of typical

310

00:13:52,220 --> 00:13:50,310

of the the editors you have around the

311

00:13:54,560 --> 00:13:52,230

world picking it up relatively easily

312

00:13:57,530 --> 00:13:54,570

and then running with it well you know

313

00:14:00,590 --> 00:13:57,540

it's a lot of fun people are always

314

00:14:03,800 --> 00:14:00,600

surprised whenever they write to me and

315

00:14:07,069 --> 00:14:03,810

I almost immediately put them in the

316

00:14:09,590 --> 00:14:07,079

group they are I think there's some sort

317

00:14:11,630 --> 00:14:09,600

of test I'm supposed to be giving them

318

00:14:14,420 --> 00:14:11,640

some of the emails I received from them

319

00:14:16,579 --> 00:14:14,430

are quite interesting where they'll give

320

00:14:21,410 --> 00:14:16,589

me this in-depth look of why they should

321

00:14:23,090 --> 00:14:21,420

be joining gso w I accept pretty much

322

00:14:28,030 --> 00:14:23,100

anybody who wants to join if you're

323

00:14:30,879 --> 00:14:28,040

willing to to try I will take you on and

324

00:14:33,400 --> 00:14:30,889

when Stuart joined the group I looked at

325

00:14:37,810 --> 00:14:33,410

his email recently he said he could give

326

00:14:39,939 --> 00:14:37,820

me four or five hours a week he gives us

327

00:14:42,249 --> 00:14:39,949

a lot more than four or five hours

328

00:14:45,460 --> 00:14:42,259

Indian sometimes it feels like four or

329

00:14:49,629 --> 00:14:45,470

five hours a day and that's by choice

330

00:14:50,139 --> 00:14:49,639

right Stuart yeah definitely he's a lot

331

00:14:52,290 --> 00:14:50,149

of fun

332

00:14:55,930 --> 00:14:52,300

he was apprehensive I think at first and

333

00:14:58,120 --> 00:14:55,940

you know it takes a lot of time to train

334

00:15:01,329 --> 00:14:58,130

and Stuart makes us sound like it was

335

00:15:05,170 --> 00:15:01,339

just like really simple it's it's not

336

00:15:07,449 --> 00:15:05,180

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

337

00:15:11,559 --> 00:15:07,459

like taking an undergraduate college

338

00:15:13,600 --> 00:15:11,569

class with assignments and but being on

339

00:15:15,939 --> 00:15:13,610

your own a lot where you're you're

340

00:15:18,129 --> 00:15:15,949

having to do the projects yourself and

341

00:15:20,199 --> 00:15:18,139

be motivated yourself and then you have

342

00:15:23,499 --> 00:15:20,209

this annoying professor that lives in

343

00:15:25,150 --> 00:15:23,509

California that uses Facebook to talk to

344

00:15:27,670 --> 00:15:25,160

you all the time and say how you doing

345

00:15:32,050 --> 00:15:27,680

how you doing how you come along with

346

00:15:36,340 --> 00:15:32,060

that it's it's an unusual

347

00:15:39,040 --> 00:15:36,350

I think it's an unusual thing for people

348

00:15:44,710 --> 00:15:39,050

to to sign on to do it does take months

349

00:15:48,670 --> 00:15:44,720

to train Stuart's typical I guess he's

350

00:15:50,650 --> 00:15:48,680

not a computer programmer in half of the

351

00:15:55,480 --> 00:15:50,660

group probably or involved in the

352

00:15:59,920 --> 00:15:55,490

computer industry in some way and Stuart

353

00:16:02,379 --> 00:15:59,930

tended to be a bit shy at first and now

354

00:16:04,990 --> 00:16:02,389

he's one of the one of the troublemakers

355

00:16:06,750 --> 00:16:05,000

of our secret cabal it's a nice way to

356

00:16:09,309 --> 00:16:06,760

put it

357

00:16:11,559 --> 00:16:09,319

they formed their own little friendships

358

00:16:13,660 --> 00:16:11,569

in their own little world and there's a

359

00:16:16,329 --> 00:16:13,670

lot of fun things that are that are

360

00:16:19,750 --> 00:16:16,339

going on in the cabal I think you should

361

00:16:22,420 --> 00:16:19,760

mention what the blue well is Stuart oh

362

00:16:26,230 --> 00:16:22,430

the blue the blue while is it's an even

363

00:16:28,059 --> 00:16:26,240

meet them started dead of Russia in

364

00:16:30,220 --> 00:16:28,069

relation to agar getting locked up for

365

00:16:33,400 --> 00:16:30,230

curating death groups on the Internet

366

00:16:36,309 --> 00:16:33,410

and somehow it grew through the media to

367

00:16:39,189 --> 00:16:36,319

turn into a big suicide game and the

368

00:16:41,260 --> 00:16:39,199

idea was the the curator or the a

369

00:16:44,560 --> 00:16:41,270

loosely a mentor would

370

00:16:47,470 --> 00:16:44,570

find somebody give them 50 tasks to do

371

00:16:49,900 --> 00:16:47,480

and the final task being out to commit

372

00:16:51,580 --> 00:16:49,910

suicide so it was a fairly sort of

373

00:16:53,980 --> 00:16:51,590

creepy game that some of the tasks

374

00:16:57,460 --> 00:16:53,990

included self-harm and watching watching

375

00:16:59,230 --> 00:16:57,470

scary movies and it worked there all the

376

00:17:03,520 --> 00:16:59,240

way up to that task and that was the

377

00:17:06,220 --> 00:17:03,530

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

378

00:17:08,410 --> 00:17:06,230

people were jumping on board was causing

379

00:17:11,620 --> 00:17:08,420

a bit of mass hysteria particularly in

380

00:17:13,210 --> 00:17:11,630

India I think we all think we must have

381

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:13,220

been getting two hundred thousand page

382

00:17:17,350 --> 00:17:16,010

views a day just from India and there

383

00:17:20,110 --> 00:17:17,360

were students getting on the tall page

384

00:17:22,569 --> 00:17:20,120

and saying here terrible it was and here

385

00:17:24,220 --> 00:17:22,579

we need to get rid of this game when in

386

00:17:27,069 --> 00:17:24,230

fact it wasn't a game at all and there

387

00:17:29,920 --> 00:17:27,079

was all that it was like you saying it's

388

00:17:30,580 --> 00:17:29,930

a urban myth so that's what that was

389

00:17:33,070 --> 00:17:30,590

about

390

00:17:35,320 --> 00:17:33,080

we had to remove a lot of we had to

391

00:17:38,200 --> 00:17:35,330

remove a lot of a lot of things from the

392

00:17:41,800 --> 00:17:38,210

page at one stage the 50 tasks were

393

00:17:44,410 --> 00:17:41,810

listed we removed that and we were

394

00:17:46,240 --> 00:17:44,420

removed a lot of the a lot of the

395

00:17:49,660 --> 00:17:46,250

misinformation from the page or yes as

396

00:17:52,030 --> 00:17:49,670

well so I think we called it the worst

397

00:17:55,240 --> 00:17:52,040

case of riff bombing we'd ever seen and

398

00:17:56,530 --> 00:17:55,250

a reference is something to cite or a

399

00:18:01,450 --> 00:17:56,540

citation that you see there in the

400

00:18:03,190 --> 00:18:01,460

bottom of a page there was well over 300

401
00:18:05,560 --> 00:18:03,200
or I think on the page at one stage and

402
00:18:10,180 --> 00:18:05,570
we've got at the end of below 200 now

403
00:18:12,700 --> 00:18:10,190
and quite a few skeptical view points

404
00:18:15,280 --> 00:18:12,710
have come onto it from psychologists

405
00:18:17,350 --> 00:18:15,290
rather than just journalists trying to

406
00:18:19,240 --> 00:18:17,360
beat it up and that create clickbait I

407
00:18:21,820 --> 00:18:19,250
guess well that's interesting I didn't

408
00:18:23,260 --> 00:18:21,830
know I mean I had heard about that but

409
00:18:24,820 --> 00:18:23,270
again it's just typical the sort of

410
00:18:26,500 --> 00:18:24,830
things you will learn if you decide to

411
00:18:28,930 --> 00:18:26,510
become an editor for a guerrilla

412
00:18:31,360 --> 00:18:28,940
skepticism Susan what what sort of

413
00:18:33,130 --> 00:18:31,370

statistics now are we looking at I know

414

00:18:34,450 --> 00:18:33,140

Stuart you gave a talk at skeptic camp

415

00:18:37,450 --> 00:18:34,460

where you did mention some of the stats

416

00:18:39,550 --> 00:18:37,460

but we might get them from Susan's of

417

00:18:41,260 --> 00:18:39,560

course surely Susan you have your finger

418

00:18:47,650 --> 00:18:41,270

on the pulse of the this sort of thing

419

00:18:48,470 --> 00:18:47,660

right so we are tracking about 525 pages

420

00:18:57,470 --> 00:18:48,480

that we have

421

00:19:02,510 --> 00:18:57,480

existed and of those 500 I can tell you

422

00:19:06,110 --> 00:19:02,520

right now we're at 545 pages as of right

423

00:19:10,400 --> 00:19:06,120

now and those 545 pages have just given

424

00:19:13,190 --> 00:19:10,410

us 23 million page views so we've just

425

00:19:17,150 --> 00:19:13,200

hit wow we're getting about 35,000 page

426

00:19:20,990 --> 00:19:17,160

views a day and we're hitting about 900

427

00:19:23,180 --> 00:19:21,000

page 900 thousand page views a month so

428

00:19:28,250 --> 00:19:23,190

we're almost at a million pages a month

429

00:19:30,320 --> 00:19:28,260

so it's it's really just insane how many

430

00:19:33,409 --> 00:19:30,330

page views people are reading our work

431

00:19:36,710 --> 00:19:33,419

and this is in many languages not just

432

00:19:39,919 --> 00:19:36,720

in English we are writing in Dutch and

433

00:19:43,610 --> 00:19:39,929

and the tie-in in German and Portuguese

434

00:19:45,770 --> 00:19:43,620

and Spanish and we just had a new

435

00:19:47,720 --> 00:19:45,780

recruit who just finished training and

436

00:19:51,770 --> 00:19:47,730

he's gone he lives in Sri Lanka and

437

00:19:53,480 --> 00:19:51,780

he'll be writing in his language that he

438

00:19:56,110 --> 00:19:53,490

wants to write in there he has he's

439

00:20:00,860 --> 00:19:56,120

about started I think he's starting on

440

00:20:03,890 --> 00:20:00,870

homeopathy and it's some language in Sri

441

00:20:06,289 --> 00:20:03,900

Lanka and I don't have it handy right

442

00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:06,299

it's movement now Susan well I think

443

00:20:09,680 --> 00:20:08,010

about it because I can see you and

444

00:20:11,390 --> 00:20:09,690

Stuart I don't know if you notice behind

445

00:20:13,190 --> 00:20:11,400

Susan there's a map of the world with

446

00:20:15,650 --> 00:20:13,200

Australia right behind her head so

447

00:20:17,419 --> 00:20:15,660

that's very nice Susan that you you're

448

00:20:20,330 --> 00:20:17,429

thinking of us but on the other side of

449

00:20:21,890 --> 00:20:20,340

you on the other side of you is as I

450

00:20:24,710 --> 00:20:21,900

look I noticed that a little plaque

451
00:20:27,470 --> 00:20:24,720
there from the committee for skeptical

452
00:20:30,080 --> 00:20:27,480
inquiry and big congratulations on

453
00:20:33,320 --> 00:20:30,090
becoming a fellow thank you so much yeah

454
00:20:35,780 --> 00:20:33,330
I have I've just become a fellow and I

455
00:20:38,450 --> 00:20:35,790
just got the magazine today and I can

456
00:20:41,919 --> 00:20:38,460
see that they put me in the front cover

457
00:20:44,720 --> 00:20:41,929
I'm right there next to Murray gell-mann

458
00:20:47,480 --> 00:20:44,730
pretty damn good and that I'm still in

459
00:20:51,049 --> 00:20:47,490
the back cover as a scientific and

460
00:20:53,120 --> 00:20:51,059
technical consultant apparently now

461
00:20:55,490 --> 00:20:53,130
Stuart before we wrap it up and we

462
00:20:58,640 --> 00:20:55,500
alluded to this earlier you gave a talk

463
00:21:01,070 --> 00:20:58,650

about your activities on for guerrilla

464

00:21:01,970 --> 00:21:01,080

skepticism on Wikipedia at the recent

465

00:21:04,130 --> 00:21:01,980

skeptic

466

00:21:05,930 --> 00:21:04,140

and I think it was only in the last a

467

00:21:09,380 --> 00:21:05,940

week can you tell us a little bit about

468

00:21:11,630 --> 00:21:09,390

that me I'll just sort of have a bit of

469

00:21:14,960 --> 00:21:11,640

a rundown of it what what drew me to I

470

00:21:17,450 --> 00:21:14,970

guess becoming skeptically active anyway

471

00:21:19,580 --> 00:21:17,460

um through my my wife being sick and

472

00:21:22,040 --> 00:21:19,590

having breast cancer which she's

473

00:21:24,860 --> 00:21:22,050

thankfully over there and then I just

474

00:21:27,020 --> 00:21:24,870

ran into what we did at guerrilla

475

00:21:29,780 --> 00:21:27,030

skepticism went through a few things

476
00:21:32,300 --> 00:21:29,790
that that I thought were were fun or fun

477
00:21:32,690 --> 00:21:32,310
things that we did and it is a lot of

478
00:21:34,280 --> 00:21:32,700
fun

479
00:21:35,840 --> 00:21:34,290
because I wouldn't be doing it if it

480
00:21:38,300 --> 00:21:35,850
wasn't the hook sort of wouldn't pay

481
00:21:41,090 --> 00:21:38,310
they and then all sort of finished up

482
00:21:44,570 --> 00:21:41,100
with with a few statistics a bit a bit

483
00:21:46,190 --> 00:21:44,580
Wikipedia and and here we have we got

484
00:21:48,770 --> 00:21:46,200
along with the error statistical

485
00:21:50,030 --> 00:21:48,780
analysis so it was good it was I really

486
00:21:52,310 --> 00:21:50,040
enjoyed it there was about 50 people

487
00:21:55,040 --> 00:21:52,320
there and it would have been a bad thing

488
00:21:57,860 --> 00:21:55,050

I think the seventh or write them

489

00:21:59,120 --> 00:21:57,870

skipped he came then there on the surf

490

00:22:00,980 --> 00:21:59,130

coast which I think makes it the

491

00:22:03,950 --> 00:22:00,990

longest-running skip T camp in Australia

492

00:22:05,990 --> 00:22:03,960

as well which is just fantastic very

493

00:22:08,950 --> 00:22:06,000

intimate occasion and we all went and

494

00:22:12,500 --> 00:22:08,960

sampled some great beer at the Aries pub

495

00:22:13,970 --> 00:22:12,510

at the end of the day so that's that's

496

00:22:15,320 --> 00:22:13,980

always it good that's always a good

497

00:22:17,750 --> 00:22:15,330

thing that's always a good thing

498

00:22:20,930 --> 00:22:17,760

and folks Stewart gave a talk there

499

00:22:22,700 --> 00:22:20,940

which is on YouTube as a matter of fact

500

00:22:24,350 --> 00:22:22,710

I viewed the other day and then enjoyed

501
00:22:27,620 --> 00:22:24,360
that and I'll certainly add a link to

502
00:22:29,750 --> 00:22:27,630
that talk in the show notes oh I also

503
00:22:31,880 --> 00:22:29,760
wanted to mention that Stewart was

504
00:22:34,220 --> 00:22:31,890
instrumental in one of our latest

505
00:22:39,140 --> 00:22:34,230
psychic stings we're calling it

506
00:22:42,140 --> 00:22:39,150
operation peach pit and that has yet to

507
00:22:44,660 --> 00:22:42,150
be revealed the results but that was

508
00:22:48,500 --> 00:22:44,670
another one of our stings and it was

509
00:22:52,490 --> 00:22:48,510
right over Facebook and it was about a

510
00:22:55,820 --> 00:22:52,500
month of work and Stewart stepped up and

511
00:22:59,570 --> 00:22:55,830
took on one of the lead roles of the

512
00:23:02,120 --> 00:22:59,580
creator of the fake Facebook pages that

513
00:23:04,130 --> 00:23:02,130

we were trying to use to catch a psychic

514

00:23:07,850 --> 00:23:04,140

that was in Philadelphia

515

00:23:11,510 --> 00:23:07,860

oddly enough and nor near me so we had a

516

00:23:13,340 --> 00:23:11,520

crew go in from Philadelphia that had no

517

00:23:14,720 --> 00:23:13,350

idea what was on those Facebook pages

518

00:23:17,570 --> 00:23:14,730

trying to catch si

519

00:23:19,520 --> 00:23:17,580

you cannot read and the story of that

520

00:23:22,280 --> 00:23:19,530

and the results of that should be coming

521

00:23:23,810 --> 00:23:22,290

out hopefully in late March something to

522

00:23:25,669 --> 00:23:23,820

look forward to I love these names

523

00:23:28,100 --> 00:23:25,679

peach-pit you'll have to have an

524

00:23:30,680 --> 00:23:28,110

operation Vegemite or timtam I think at

525

00:23:34,159 --> 00:23:30,690

some stage gotta find me a nice sidekick

526

00:23:36,680 --> 00:23:34,169

over in Australia that I can use I'm

527

00:23:39,110 --> 00:23:36,690

looking for they need to be hungry they

528

00:23:42,320 --> 00:23:39,120

need to be we want to catch hot readers

529

00:23:44,060 --> 00:23:42,330

and they need to use Facebook so you

530

00:23:48,130 --> 00:23:44,070

know if you can find me Sam I'll be

531

00:23:50,150 --> 00:23:48,140

happy to run another another sting

532

00:23:53,990 --> 00:23:50,160

operation Vegemite that might be

533

00:23:55,760 --> 00:23:54,000

interesting because I'll have a chat to

534

00:23:57,799 --> 00:23:55,770

you offline Susan because I certainly

535

00:24:00,680 --> 00:23:57,809

know of a few psychics in this country

536

00:24:02,450 --> 00:24:00,690

who use hot reading who cheat to be

537

00:24:04,640 --> 00:24:02,460

blunt about it without mentioning names

538

00:24:07,250 --> 00:24:04,650

so we might have a little chatter a bit

539

00:24:10,250 --> 00:24:07,260

later on Susan well send me some names

540

00:24:12,560 --> 00:24:10,260

because I certainly and have a lot of my

541

00:24:14,780 --> 00:24:12,570

plate right now but it's something that

542

00:24:16,909 --> 00:24:14,790

we would like to be doing I I I can't

543

00:24:20,240 --> 00:24:16,919

see any reason why we couldn't do a

544

00:24:22,490 --> 00:24:20,250

sting in Australia something to look

545

00:24:24,740 --> 00:24:22,500

forward to indeed we'll look Stuart Oh

546

00:24:26,450 --> 00:24:24,750

all the way down there in sail and

547

00:24:28,730 --> 00:24:26,460

Victoria lovely part of the world and

548

00:24:31,190 --> 00:24:28,740

Susan all the way over there in Salinas

549

00:24:34,250 --> 00:24:31,200

California thanks again and folks

550

00:24:37,130 --> 00:24:34,260

another another prompt if you want to

551
00:24:39,169 --> 00:24:37,140
join in the worldwide campaign and do

552
00:24:41,240 --> 00:24:39,179
something for science and reason well I

553
00:24:43,730 --> 00:24:41,250
would suggest you become an answer for

554
00:24:46,880 --> 00:24:43,740
guerrilla skepticism on Wikipedia but

555
00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:46,890
for now Susan and Stuart thank you very

556
00:25:04,039 --> 00:24:49,010
much thanks for it - thank you

557
00:25:06,870 --> 00:25:04,049
[Music]

558
00:25:10,020 --> 00:25:06,880
the skeptic magazine the journal from

559
00:25:12,240 --> 00:25:10,030
Australian skeptics subscribe online to

560
00:25:17,549 --> 00:25:12,250
the world's second oldest skeptical

561
00:25:20,730 --> 00:25:17,559
magazine visit WWF X comma u and click

562
00:25:25,140 --> 00:25:20,740
the publication's link you can also find

563
00:25:28,289 --> 00:25:25,150

there over 30 years on back issues free

564

00:25:32,850 --> 00:25:28,299

to download the skeptic magazine from

565

00:25:50,080 --> 00:25:43,030

[Music]

566

00:25:58,990 --> 00:25:52,920

with dr. Paulie

567

00:26:02,830 --> 00:25:59,000

[Music]

568

00:26:06,430 --> 00:26:02,840

hi this is dr. poorly and welcome to my

569

00:26:09,279 --> 00:26:06,440

new segment random red I'll be talking

570

00:26:11,460 --> 00:26:09,289

about science issues that interest me we

571

00:26:14,409 --> 00:26:11,470

do without some more expert friends

572

00:26:16,480 --> 00:26:14,419

today i talk with associate professor

573

00:26:18,760 --> 00:26:16,490

ken harvey about the recently passed

574

00:26:26,110 --> 00:26:18,770

amendments to the TGA bill

575

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:26,120

[Music]

576

00:26:30,980 --> 00:26:29,010

I'm here today with dr. ken Harvey

577

00:26:32,810 --> 00:26:30,990

associate professor at the School of

578

00:26:35,260 --> 00:26:32,820

Public Health and preventative medicine

579

00:26:38,120 --> 00:26:35,270

at Monash University and well-known

580

00:26:41,270 --> 00:26:38,130

antiquary Crusader and one could say

581

00:26:43,660 --> 00:26:41,280

longtime critic of the TGA I thank you

582

00:26:46,880 --> 00:26:43,670

for joining me again

583

00:26:52,370 --> 00:26:46,890

let me just rephrase that I'm a friend

584

00:26:54,440 --> 00:26:52,380

of the TGA but sometimes friends yes I

585

00:26:56,330 --> 00:26:54,450

think that our closest friends and best

586

00:26:58,850 --> 00:26:56,340

friends are the ones that are able to do

587

00:27:01,190 --> 00:26:58,860

criticize us constructively I'm just

588

00:27:03,170 --> 00:27:01,200

wondering if you could it just for our

589

00:27:06,650 --> 00:27:03,180

international listeners and for those

590

00:27:09,050 --> 00:27:06,660

who are unaware of what the TGA is to

591

00:27:12,320 --> 00:27:09,060

explain the purpose of the TGA or

592

00:27:16,090 --> 00:27:12,330

Therapeutic Goods Administration and the

593

00:27:18,320 --> 00:27:16,100

TGA bill your first 30 goods

594

00:27:21,650 --> 00:27:18,330

administration is the regulatory

595

00:27:26,660 --> 00:27:21,660

authority in Australia for licensing

596

00:27:28,670 --> 00:27:26,670

medicines and medical devices to the

597

00:27:31,220 --> 00:27:28,680

United States student drug

598

00:27:33,890 --> 00:27:31,230

administration so its purpose is

599

00:27:36,530 --> 00:27:33,900

hopefully to ensure that medicines and

600

00:27:39,560 --> 00:27:36,540

medical devices that are available to

601
00:27:42,770 --> 00:27:39,570
the Australian public are of reasonable

602
00:27:46,930 --> 00:27:42,780
quality safety and efficacy and the

603
00:27:54,620 --> 00:27:46,940
purpose so that's its job with medicines

604
00:27:57,470 --> 00:27:54,630
encompasses not just medicine but is

605
00:27:59,450 --> 00:27:57,480
also great supplements what we call

606
00:28:03,470 --> 00:27:59,460
complementary and traditional medicines

607
00:28:06,200 --> 00:28:03,480
and what is the teaching a bill or what

608
00:28:10,450 --> 00:28:06,210
what was it prior to this new amendment

609
00:28:13,460 --> 00:28:10,460
and its purpose in regulation well it's

610
00:28:17,120 --> 00:28:13,470
an interesting title of the Therapeutic

611
00:28:20,270 --> 00:28:17,130
Goods Administration 2017 makers number

612
00:28:23,170 --> 00:28:20,280
one bill which sounds boring but in fact

613
00:28:25,910 --> 00:28:23,180

it was quite a controversial bill and

614

00:28:29,390 --> 00:28:25,920

some bits of it weren't so controversial

615

00:28:29,970 --> 00:28:29,400

for example a bit so that came up with a

616

00:28:32,520 --> 00:28:29,980

producer

617

00:28:34,650 --> 00:28:32,530

kronole scam so patients could have

618

00:28:37,230 --> 00:28:34,660

earlier access to promising new

619

00:28:39,450 --> 00:28:37,240

medicines and that's something that most

620

00:28:42,060 --> 00:28:39,460

regulatory agencies are grappling with

621

00:28:46,080 --> 00:28:42,070

how to get promising new medicines

622

00:28:48,510 --> 00:28:46,090

available the other provisions with

623

00:28:51,450 --> 00:28:48,520

medical devices again was to allow

624

00:28:55,230 --> 00:28:51,460

overseas regulatory departments to have

625

00:28:57,180 --> 00:28:55,240

their approvals accepted by Australia

626
00:28:59,520 --> 00:28:57,190
which might again get them to reach for

627
00:29:02,370 --> 00:28:59,530
markets sooner so there was some couple

628
00:29:04,440 --> 00:29:02,380
non-controversial sensible bits but boy

629
00:29:06,710 --> 00:29:04,450
there were some controversial

630
00:29:09,150 --> 00:29:06,720
areas particularly regarding

631
00:29:12,210 --> 00:29:09,160
complementary medicines or supplements

632
00:29:15,659 --> 00:29:12,220
and also advertising of medicines to the

633
00:29:18,299 --> 00:29:15,669
general public so I saw you in December

634
00:29:19,950 --> 00:29:18,309
at the Victorian skeptics cafe I made

635
00:29:23,549 --> 00:29:19,960
out where you had your students present

636
00:29:25,980 --> 00:29:23,559
their whack-a-mole project findings and

637
00:29:28,590 --> 00:29:25,990
you brought the TJ amendment bill to our

638
00:29:31,700 --> 00:29:28,600

turn to men what was it nearly initially

639

00:29:34,500 --> 00:29:31,710

proposed and what was the issue here

640

00:29:38,310 --> 00:29:34,510

three issues that concerned us

641

00:29:41,520 --> 00:29:38,320

first the TGA was proposing to abolish

642

00:29:43,950 --> 00:29:41,530

pre approval of advancements to the

643

00:29:46,799 --> 00:29:43,960

public for therapeutic products the

644

00:29:49,620 --> 00:29:46,809

second one was they were coming up with

645

00:29:52,200 --> 00:29:49,630

a list of permitted indications the

646

00:29:54,690 --> 00:29:52,210

concept was good that the list was crazy

647

00:29:56,539 --> 00:29:54,700

and the third thing they proposed to

648

00:29:58,950 --> 00:29:56,549

take over the entire advertising

649

00:30:01,140 --> 00:29:58,960

complaint system and introduce a new

650

00:30:03,450 --> 00:30:01,150

code now certainly there were problems

651
00:30:06,930 --> 00:30:03,460
with the old system and there's a need

652
00:30:10,770 --> 00:30:06,940
for a new code but we didn't trust the

653
00:30:13,470 --> 00:30:10,780
TGA and we still don't so let's start

654
00:30:15,960 --> 00:30:13,480
off by discussing first there the

655
00:30:20,700 --> 00:30:15,970
potential repercussions of getting rid

656
00:30:24,240 --> 00:30:20,710
of the pre-approval of advertising there

657
00:30:26,580 --> 00:30:24,250
is a system for checking advertisements

658
00:30:29,549 --> 00:30:26,590
before they go into mainstream media

659
00:30:31,350 --> 00:30:29,559
which is creating television now it's

660
00:30:31,920 --> 00:30:31,360
not perfect it's started a number of

661
00:30:33,870 --> 00:30:31,930
years ago

662
00:30:36,990 --> 00:30:33,880
we didn't have things like the internet

663
00:30:39,810 --> 00:30:37,000

and pay-tv so if a pre-approval system

664

00:30:42,780 --> 00:30:39,820

doesn't cope with new media but on the

665

00:30:45,720 --> 00:30:42,790

other hand it does actually pick up an

666

00:30:48,570 --> 00:30:45,730

awful lot of bad investments that do

667

00:30:52,860 --> 00:30:48,580

need to be changed and improved the

668

00:30:55,770 --> 00:30:52,870

actual system is delegated by the TGA to

669

00:30:57,630 --> 00:30:55,780

two industry associations and that's a

670

00:30:59,460 --> 00:30:57,640

bit of a problem because sometimes they

671

00:31:02,370 --> 00:30:59,470

come to different conclusions on the

672

00:31:04,980 --> 00:31:02,380

same on the same advertisement it's also

673

00:31:08,010 --> 00:31:04,990

not perfect even for the ads they

674

00:31:10,470 --> 00:31:08,020

pre-approve now pick up things that are

675

00:31:12,690 --> 00:31:10,480

obviously crazy like someone advertising

676

00:31:16,980 --> 00:31:12,700

a new product the catsup that which

677

00:31:19,920 --> 00:31:16,990

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

678

00:31:22,140 --> 00:31:19,930

things like there's no mandatory warning

679

00:31:25,020 --> 00:31:22,150

some you meant to say you know it's

680

00:31:26,790 --> 00:31:25,030

persist let's see a doctor so they pick

681

00:31:28,560 --> 00:31:26,800

up those sorts of things but they

682

00:31:31,260 --> 00:31:28,570

certainly don't pick up things where

683

00:31:33,840 --> 00:31:31,270

there's concern that the evidence

684

00:31:35,550 --> 00:31:33,850

supporting a claim may not be

685

00:31:37,350 --> 00:31:35,560

appropriate they haven't got time to

686

00:31:39,660 --> 00:31:37,360

look up the Internet to look up

687

00:31:41,700 --> 00:31:39,670

references and shake those things up so

688

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:41,710

although it picks up a lot of good

689

00:31:46,950 --> 00:31:45,010

things and keeps bad ads out it's not

690

00:31:48,600 --> 00:31:46,960

perfect and we still find that something

691

00:31:52,170 --> 00:31:48,610

like 10 percent of ads that have been

692

00:31:54,450 --> 00:31:52,180

pre-approved nevertheless will be found

693

00:31:57,920 --> 00:31:54,460

to breach the code of conduct when they

694

00:32:01,650 --> 00:31:57,930

go to the complaint system a concern

695

00:32:04,830 --> 00:32:01,660

remove it well they're into cutting red

696

00:32:08,340 --> 00:32:04,840

tape making life easier for industry and

697

00:32:10,040 --> 00:32:08,350

so what they proposed was wet let's get

698

00:32:13,140 --> 00:32:10,050

rid of all the pre-approval and

699

00:32:15,480 --> 00:32:13,150

hopefully by having and some stronger

700

00:32:17,640 --> 00:32:15,490

sanctions and a bit more post marketing

701

00:32:20,430 --> 00:32:17,650

surveillance that there won't be any

702

00:32:22,590 --> 00:32:20,440

more problems interestingly even one of

703

00:32:24,300 --> 00:32:22,600

the industry associations Australian

704

00:32:27,540 --> 00:32:24,310

self-medication Industry Association

705

00:32:30,450 --> 00:32:27,550

which conducts pre-approval thought this

706

00:32:33,920 --> 00:32:30,460

was crazy because they pick up so many

707

00:32:37,660 --> 00:32:33,930

problems themselves the system of

708

00:32:41,020 --> 00:32:37,670

increased penalties or whatever against

709

00:32:43,360 --> 00:32:41,030

while the TGA to take companies to court

710

00:32:46,180 --> 00:32:43,370

they've never done that they haven't got

711

00:32:48,400 --> 00:32:46,190

these specialist lawyers to do it they

712

00:32:51,610 --> 00:32:48,410

were talking about the ability to get

713

00:32:53,950 --> 00:32:51,620

bad ads out within ten days now that's

714

00:32:57,040 --> 00:32:53,960

just seems impossible because you've got

715

00:33:00,040 --> 00:32:57,050

to give industry the right of response

716

00:33:01,660 --> 00:33:00,050

to a complaint they've certainly if

717

00:33:05,620 --> 00:33:01,670

they're going to be frightening deliver

718

00:33:09,910 --> 00:33:05,630

finer or injunctions then again they get

719

00:33:11,770 --> 00:33:09,920

a lawyer and we find that for agencies

720

00:33:15,580 --> 00:33:11,780

like Australian Competition and Consumer

721

00:33:18,190 --> 00:33:15,590

Commission which does have again good

722

00:33:21,880 --> 00:33:18,200

powers to bring industry under control

723

00:33:23,890 --> 00:33:21,890

it can take 12 months not 10 days to

724

00:33:26,200 --> 00:33:23,900

bring companies to court and to get a

725

00:33:29,970 --> 00:33:26,210

good judgment against them so again we

726

00:33:34,570 --> 00:33:29,980

felt the TGA really is somewhat

727

00:33:37,480 --> 00:33:34,580

difficult reduce these penalties and

728

00:33:41,080 --> 00:33:37,490

sections it certainly seems that way and

729

00:33:43,770 --> 00:33:41,090

so perhaps we can have a quick

730

00:33:46,300 --> 00:33:43,780

discussion about the second concern and

731

00:33:49,300 --> 00:33:46,310

probably one of the most more disturbing

732

00:33:52,900 --> 00:33:49,310

ones is the indication list the

733

00:33:55,600 --> 00:33:52,910

permissible indications yes what again

734

00:33:59,080 --> 00:33:55,610

the idea was quite a good one at the

735

00:34:00,430 --> 00:33:59,090

moment there is no pre market evaluation

736

00:34:02,680 --> 00:34:00,440

by the TGA

737

00:34:04,420 --> 00:34:02,690

is to say there's some pre approval of

738

00:34:06,790 --> 00:34:04,430

some advertisements but there's no

739

00:34:08,950 --> 00:34:06,800

pre-market approval of complementary

740

00:34:11,409 --> 00:34:08,960

medicines or supplements by the TGA

741

00:34:13,990 --> 00:34:11,419

it's a trust based system and as you

742

00:34:15,490 --> 00:34:14,000

might imagine these sponsors can't be

743

00:34:19,919 --> 00:34:15,500

trusted they're linked to health

744

00:34:23,409 --> 00:34:19,929

evidence to support claims they make

745

00:34:25,900 --> 00:34:23,419

when the TGA does get around to some

746

00:34:27,760 --> 00:34:25,910

post marketing surveillance they find

747

00:34:30,159 --> 00:34:27,770

and for last few years they've been

748

00:34:33,310 --> 00:34:30,169

finding that regulatory violations are

749

00:34:35,740 --> 00:34:33,320

run at around 80 percent of which most

750

00:34:37,450 --> 00:34:35,750

of those are because the companies

751

00:34:39,310 --> 00:34:37,460

actually don't have the evidence for

752

00:34:42,159 --> 00:34:39,320

their claims when it's looked at yet so

753

00:34:45,730 --> 00:34:42,169

what the companies do is make up lots of

754

00:34:48,550 --> 00:34:45,740

creative claims themselves which again

755

00:34:49,649 --> 00:34:48,560

can only be dealt with by complaints or

756

00:34:51,960 --> 00:34:49,659

by person

757

00:34:54,839 --> 00:34:51,970

getting surveillance so again the

758

00:34:57,870 --> 00:34:54,849

teacher thought okay let's get rid of

759

00:35:00,450 --> 00:34:57,880

their ability to have creative claims

760

00:35:03,470 --> 00:35:00,460

which is a good idea and let's restrict

761

00:35:06,569 --> 00:35:03,480

them to a limited list of pre-approved

762

00:35:09,720 --> 00:35:06,579

indications or claims so the concept was

763

00:35:12,720 --> 00:35:09,730

good but typically the TGA then asked to

764

00:35:14,220 --> 00:35:12,730

the industry to come up with a list and

765

00:35:18,930 --> 00:35:14,230

of course the industry came up with a

766

00:35:21,240 --> 00:35:18,940

list of over a thousand 84% of the

767

00:35:24,690 --> 00:35:21,250

claims on the list were for what we call

768

00:35:28,319 --> 00:35:24,700

traditional indications indications that

769

00:35:31,400 --> 00:35:28,329

don't need a scientific base indications

770

00:35:35,599 --> 00:35:31,410

for traditional Chinese medicine such as

771

00:35:39,390 --> 00:35:35,609

stimulated stagnant Chi Sub Zero yang

772

00:35:41,880 --> 00:35:39,400

disinhibitor amid some fascinating some

773

00:35:46,849 --> 00:35:41,890

fascinating indications for traditional

774

00:35:54,349 --> 00:35:50,819

traditional medicine and as I say the

775

00:35:57,630 --> 00:35:54,359

tje bless them seemed to put traditional

776

00:35:59,849 --> 00:35:57,640

indications from alternate medical

777

00:36:02,700 --> 00:35:59,859

practices on the same basis as

778

00:36:05,400 --> 00:36:02,710

scientific information in which it's

779

00:36:08,370 --> 00:36:05,410

going through the hierarchy of claims

780

00:36:11,279 --> 00:36:08,380

and controlled trials and meta-analysis

781

00:36:13,740 --> 00:36:11,289

so you can imagine that this list of

782

00:36:16,680 --> 00:36:13,750

permitted indications with these

783

00:36:20,039 --> 00:36:16,690

laughable claims of disinhibited water

784

00:36:22,890 --> 00:36:20,049

was actually caused ridicule for the TGA

785

00:36:24,930 --> 00:36:22,900

it has been somewhat glorious and radio

786

00:36:27,779 --> 00:36:24,940

and television programmes and newspaper

787

00:36:30,150 --> 00:36:27,789

articles ridiculing Motiti a basic

788

00:36:33,269 --> 00:36:30,160

concern was it was going to allow a

789

00:36:35,069 --> 00:36:33,279

flood of these traditional products and

790

00:36:37,710 --> 00:36:35,079

we're seeing them already I mean there's

791

00:36:40,170 --> 00:36:37,720

a big Chinese influence in Australia and

792

00:36:42,960 --> 00:36:40,180

a concern was that this is really

793

00:36:46,109 --> 00:36:42,970

pushing us you know science it's

794

00:36:49,559 --> 00:36:46,119

encouraging the sponsors of supplements

795

00:36:51,240 --> 00:36:49,569

to evade the need for scientific proof I

796

00:36:54,830 --> 00:36:51,250

mean why should they when they can come

797

00:36:56,630 --> 00:36:54,840

up with traditional indications

798

00:36:58,520 --> 00:36:56,640

it certainly may confuse the public

799

00:37:01,790 --> 00:36:58,530

learning already we're seeing

800

00:37:04,550 --> 00:37:01,800

advertisements for menopause products

801
00:37:07,940 --> 00:37:04,560
with menopause in big capital letters

802
00:37:10,580 --> 00:37:07,950
the byline of patron wisdom modern

803
00:37:11,630 --> 00:37:10,590
medicine and then bouncing your ying and

804
00:37:14,090 --> 00:37:11,640
your yang

805
00:37:18,920 --> 00:37:14,100
you know what consumers will see is the

806
00:37:21,860 --> 00:37:18,930
huge label menopause and they'll see the

807
00:37:25,160 --> 00:37:21,870
slogan that this is ancient wisdom and

808
00:37:27,680 --> 00:37:25,170
modern medicine have no idea that there

809
00:37:28,460 --> 00:37:27,690
is absolutely no scientific evidence or

810
00:37:30,710 --> 00:37:28,470
whatsoever

811
00:37:32,540 --> 00:37:30,720
this is not certainly not get us hasn't

812
00:37:35,060 --> 00:37:32,550
stopped it from being advertised and

813
00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:35,070

it's not going to stop a flood of this

814

00:37:40,880 --> 00:37:38,010

craziness on the Australian market but

815

00:37:42,680 --> 00:37:40,890

we will still be trying there is a new

816

00:37:46,430 --> 00:37:42,690

code coming up we've got the possibility

817

00:37:48,980 --> 00:37:46,440

of putting him advisory statements and

818

00:37:51,380 --> 00:37:48,990

warnings in the new code industry is

819

00:37:53,630 --> 00:37:51,390

resisting the media interests are

820

00:37:56,930 --> 00:37:53,640

resisting because they can make a lot of

821

00:37:58,310 --> 00:37:56,940

money from advertisements consumers and

822

00:38:02,420 --> 00:37:58,320

health professionals like the college

823

00:38:04,820 --> 00:38:02,430

PJ's are all for it but all for the

824

00:38:06,920 --> 00:38:04,830

advisory but I suspect given that the

825

00:38:08,930 --> 00:38:06,930

teacher is a hundred percent funded by

826

00:38:13,460 --> 00:38:08,940

industry and given that there's good

827

00:38:17,570 --> 00:38:13,470

evidence captured by industry I I don't

828

00:38:19,430 --> 00:38:17,580

like our chances and and you know well

829

00:38:22,400 --> 00:38:19,440

that I'm a pharmacist and I'm definitely

830

00:38:24,290 --> 00:38:22,410

not one that flogs the you know come in

831

00:38:27,170 --> 00:38:24,300

for a supplement and and things that you

832

00:38:29,540 --> 00:38:27,180

don't need so I think we're a mixed bag

833

00:38:31,550 --> 00:38:29,550

and unfortunately there's industry

834

00:38:34,820 --> 00:38:31,560

pressure on pharmacies to make ends meet

835

00:38:37,220 --> 00:38:34,830

and unfortunately it's the out of out of

836

00:38:39,260 --> 00:38:37,230

the dispensary or rather the shop stock

837

00:38:40,940 --> 00:38:39,270

that makes the money so it's a it's a

838

00:38:42,920 --> 00:38:40,950

very bad position to be in

839

00:38:44,840 --> 00:38:42,930

and if more money is being pumped into

840

00:38:52,460 --> 00:38:44,850

that that's that's not going to end well

841

00:38:54,470 --> 00:38:52,470

I think pharmacist extra money by doing

842

00:38:57,970 --> 00:38:54,480

and useful things like drug utilization

843

00:39:01,160 --> 00:38:57,980

review is working in general practice to

844

00:39:03,680 --> 00:39:01,170

monitor elderly patients who often do

845

00:39:05,750 --> 00:39:03,690

need deep prescribing so the owner is

846

00:39:08,270 --> 00:39:05,760

there's lots of things as pharmacists

847

00:39:10,730 --> 00:39:08,280

can do that would help quality use of

848

00:39:12,830 --> 00:39:10,740

medicines but there lot did you say the

849

00:39:15,470 --> 00:39:12,840

commercial variety are often locked into

850

00:39:17,660 --> 00:39:15,480

a remuneration structure that has

851
00:39:20,120 --> 00:39:17,670
diminished their income from the back of

852
00:39:22,220 --> 00:39:20,130
the shop and the prescription stuff and

853
00:39:24,320 --> 00:39:22,230
is pushing them into craziness in the

854
00:39:29,359 --> 00:39:24,330
front of the shop but hopefully as I say

855
00:39:32,060 --> 00:39:29,369
there are changes so I can perhaps we'll

856
00:39:36,609 --> 00:39:32,070
have to do another interview sort of

857
00:39:40,670 --> 00:39:36,619
after the 1st of July when this new TGA

858
00:39:43,370 --> 00:39:40,680
system comes into play and we can update

859
00:39:45,560 --> 00:39:43,380
the skeptics on listeners on where they

860
00:39:48,680 --> 00:39:45,570
can go on and lodge their complaints and

861
00:39:51,440 --> 00:39:48,690
I think again this interesting I mean

862
00:39:55,130 --> 00:39:51,450
certainly this rating system is Scottish

863
00:39:57,230 --> 00:39:55,140

problems but one thing's sure we don't

864

00:40:00,109 --> 00:39:57,240

have the amount of adulteration

865

00:40:03,370 --> 00:40:00,119

craziness that the American supplement

866

00:40:06,740 --> 00:40:03,380

system has because the TJ does at least

867

00:40:08,720 --> 00:40:06,750

insist that the ingredients in our

868

00:40:11,720 --> 00:40:08,730

complementary medicines or supplements I

869

00:40:13,970 --> 00:40:11,730

will relatively save a manufacturer

870

00:40:17,410 --> 00:40:13,980

under Good Manufacturing Practice and so

871

00:40:21,020 --> 00:40:17,420

we don't have a great rate of

872

00:40:27,110 --> 00:40:21,030

contamination adulteration etc but we do

873

00:40:31,770 --> 00:40:28,830

so there you have it

874

00:40:33,980 --> 00:40:31,780

the ashes passed and there are three

875

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:33,990

main concerns that have been raised

876

00:40:38,610 --> 00:40:36,010

first the abolishment of the

877

00:40:40,350 --> 00:40:38,620

pre-approvals process although there was

878

00:40:41,400 --> 00:40:40,360

a bit of a win in that will remain for

879

00:40:44,700 --> 00:40:41,410

the next two years while the new

880

00:40:47,100 --> 00:40:44,710

complaint system is tested the permitted

881

00:40:49,530 --> 00:40:47,110

indications list which includes some

882

00:40:52,830 --> 00:40:49,540

terminology that's not necessarily

883

00:40:55,110 --> 00:40:52,840

recognized by medical science and a

884

00:40:57,960 --> 00:40:55,120

rather ambitious compliance the

885

00:41:00,320 --> 00:40:57,970

complaints process I guess we'll have to

886

00:41:03,510 --> 00:41:00,330

wait until July to see what happens

887

00:41:03,960 --> 00:41:03,520

that's it for me for now thanks for

888

00:41:34,620 --> 00:41:03,970

listening

889

00:41:36,420 --> 00:41:34,630

zone now it would be remiss if I didn't

890

00:41:37,980 --> 00:41:36,430

mention the current story that all

891

00:41:40,230 --> 00:41:37,990

skeptics would be reading about at the

892

00:41:42,299 --> 00:41:40,240

moment the alleged sexual harassment

893

00:41:44,930 --> 00:41:42,309

allegations well the allegations aren't

894

00:41:47,789 --> 00:41:44,940

alleged I guess against Lawrence Krauss

895

00:41:50,700 --> 00:41:47,799

now I've met Lawrence Krauss a total of

896

00:41:52,890 --> 00:41:50,710

one time about 6 years ago where I said

897

00:41:55,200 --> 00:41:52,900

hello and he said hello apart from that

898

00:41:56,670 --> 00:41:55,210

he has never appeared on the skeptics

899

00:42:01,589 --> 00:41:56,680

own and I didn't have any plans for him

900

00:42:04,220 --> 00:42:01,599

to do so the list the the the length of

901
00:42:06,930 --> 00:42:04,230
the allegations against him are are

902
00:42:08,730 --> 00:42:06,940
disconcerting to say the least I'm sure

903
00:42:12,329 --> 00:42:08,740
we'll all see how this story plays out

904
00:42:14,130 --> 00:42:12,339
in the following weeks but for this week

905
00:42:20,700 --> 00:42:14,140
this is Richard Saunders signing off

906
00:42:22,739 --> 00:42:20,710
from Sydney Australia you've been

907
00:42:29,670 --> 00:42:22,749
listening to the skeptic zone podcast

908
00:42:32,130 --> 00:42:29,680
please visit our website at wwlp.com tax

909
00:42:36,029 --> 00:42:32,140
and to access the bat catalog of

910
00:42:37,890 --> 00:42:36,039
episodes going back to 2008 you can

911
00:42:40,950 --> 00:42:37,900
follow the skeptics on podcast on

912
00:42:43,229 --> 00:42:40,960
twitter at skeptic zone visit our

913
00:42:46,620 --> 00:42:43,239

facebook page or leave a review on

914

00:42:49,979 --> 00:42:46,630

itunes you can also support the skeptic

915

00:42:52,319 --> 00:42:49,989

zone via patreon or PayPal the skeptic

916

00:42:54,509 --> 00:42:52,329

zone podcast is an independent

917

00:42:56,489 --> 00:42:54,519

production reviews and opinions

918

00:42:58,620 --> 00:42:56,499

expressed on the skeptic zone are not

919

00:43:01,600 --> 00:42:58,630

necessarily those of Australian skeptics