

## Summary

### **Schedule, Guest Speaker, AI Feature, Toy Announcement, Book Delivery**

Matthew outlined the day's schedule, which included a guest speaker in the second half. Nancy expressed her need to leave immediately after the meeting to catch a flight. The team discussed a new Zoom AI companion feature that summarizes, bullet points, or provides context about the meeting. Matthew revealed a new toy announcement related to this feature. Despite Matthew's attempt to keep a previous abstract a secret, the AI revealed it was from the movie 'Clerks'. Randy expressed surprise at this revelation. They proceeded with the ninth round of the ninth session, with the final session to follow on Wednesday. Matthew encouraged participants to sign up for in-person working circles happening in November. Randy also announced that the Abt book, 'Narrative Gym for Medicine', which he authored, had been delivered, and that Dr. Nancy Knowlton would discuss the Abt dimensions of environmental science, health, policy, and issues, as well as the history of the American environmental movement.

### **Crichton's Influence on Science and Media**

Randy expressed his admiration for Dr. Michael Crichton, a prominent figure in science and media. He highlighted Crichton's unique skill of being bilingual in these two crucial languages for the future of science and media. Randy also mentioned Crichton's contribution to Hollywood and his unfortunate shift into climate skepticism due to a lack of response from the scientific community to his logical, rational questions. He emphasized the need to learn from Crichton's experiences and knowledge. Randy discussed the importance of including tension and drama in writing, drawing parallels with creating movies. He highlighted the necessity of these elements, citing disaster scenarios and life-or-death situations as examples. He also discussed the challenges of getting null results published in science and the importance of being able to articulate why others should care about one's work. He ended the discussion by asking SpencerGaring to read a segment from a document he had prepared, indicating that it would serve as a good basis for their next discussion.

### **Affordable Molecular Diagnostic Tool for Healthcare**

SpencerGaring discussed the development of an affordable molecular diagnostic tool aimed at improving access to healthcare. Randy encouraged the team to prioritize creating a cheap, easily manufactured diagnostic at the point of care. The team agreed on the importance of having an integrated approach and a simple story that everyone can understand. Andrea discussed the significance of peer learning in global health and highlighted the need for strong partnerships and high-quality data for effective knowledge exchange. The team also emphasized the need for clear communication and simpler language in their problem statement.

### **Event Registration Urged for Coral Reef Awareness**

Randy encouraged everyone to sign up for a two-day event, noting progress in the working circles. Matthew reported that seven out of nine spots remained available and urged people to sign up. The event would feature Dr. Nancy Knowlton, a renowned coral reef ecologist and National Academy of Sciences member, as a guest speaker. Despite some initial technical issues, Nancy was able to present her personal and professional journey, emphasizing her successful career as a scientist and her work in conservation. She expressed her desire to reach a broader audience and shared her efforts to raise awareness about coral reef issues, as well as her shift to highlighting positive developments and solutions. Nancy emphasized the importance of narrative and collaboration, but did not provide specific details about her shared projects with Randy.

## **Narratives, Science, and Politics in Communication**

Nancy discussed the challenges of effective communication in the fields of environment and medicine, drawing parallels between the two. She emphasized the limits of fact-based communication, highlighting the crucial role of narratives in connecting with audiences. Nancy also pointed out that, counterintuitively, a higher scientific literacy among the audience could sometimes lead to less acceptance of certain issues, such as climate change or vaccinations, due to political factors. She concluded with the example of Catherine Hajo, a climate scientist who effectively communicates with skeptical audiences by starting with shared values.

## **Narrative Strategies for Environmental Progress**

Nancy emphasized the importance of crafting a narrative that highlights environmental successes to inspire action and prevent apathy. She drew examples from the hero's journey in environmental activism, referencing 'Aaron Brock' and Rachel Carson's work, where individuals confronted corporate wrongdoing and brought about positive change. Nancy also discussed the storytelling approach in Rachel Carson's book 'Silent Spring,' which begins with an idyllic vision of life in America before introducing a horror story of environmental damage caused by DDT. She proposed a narrative spiral approach that links conservation successes to create a comprehensive narrative of environmental progress, starting from the 1960s to the 1980s and ending with the US re-entry into the Paris accords in 2021.

## **Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss Discussion**

Randy and Nancy discussed the public's interest in negative news, comparing it to the scientific community's focus on documenting the worsening of environmental issues. Nancy noted a growing fatigue with catastrophic news, while SpencerGaring and Nancy discussed the narrow focus on carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases when discussing climate change. They argued that it could be ineffective and potentially harmful for optimizing the environment. Furthermore, Nancy highlighted the parallel issue of biodiversity loss, which often gets overshadowed by the mantra of climate change. Matthew concurred, noting the need for the next generation of climate scientists to incorporate these sub-narratives.

## **Next Steps**

- Participants should sign up for the in-person working circles happening in November.
- Randy and Matthew will continue promoting the event to fill the remaining spots.