

LAUREAT PROFESSOR PETER DOHERTY SUMMARY.

In his Vote of Thanks to Peter Doherty, Tony Andrew summed up what I am sure was universally felt by saying:

- “We have just heard an inspirational presentation by a world authority,
- with up to the minute information,
- most importantly delivered in a manner we could all understand,
- and immeasurably increased our understanding of covid”

There were so many fascinating comments and deep insights, that I find it hard to sift out just a few into a summary. So instead I urge you to listen again, as I have just done, by clicking on the following link, and adding the passcode

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dq2E86jZOUlWjGEmQMJAko_LAhtqY1O5vdafs-8BLVwE7ypXJFXJV1VEOJOCfkKy.3H_2WWdRJI-gCc4I Passcode: 2H&E4pDp

We were indeed privileged and honoured to hear Prof Doherty’s views, which were given as agreed through the process of an interview by our John Carter, who asked questions (not given in advance, and some drawn from those provided by other members) on:

- Spanish flu of 1918
- HIV/Aids, Hong Kong flu, Ebola
- Origins of SARS-CoV2
- Delta, and potential for other mutations
- Vaccines, types, booster, infectivity of vaxxed and unvaxxed
- Rapid antigen testing
- Herd immunity
- Climate change
- Research funding

His answers showed an extraordinary intellect, a profound grasp of the complexities, and an ability to explain so coherently and clearly in a way that would have satisfied the medical scientists among us, as well as those of us who may seldom delve beyond the news broadcasts on such matters.

In talking about the origins of covid, he referred to the work of Dr Eddie Holmes, an Australian virologist who worked closely with the Wuhan scientists, and who is convinced that covid-19 came from nature, through the Wuhan market, with no evidence of leakage from the research lab as some have speculated.

Members may be interested in a related podcast following Dr Holmes being recently awarded the Prime Minister’s Prize for Science 2021.

[tps://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/the-science-show-full-program-podcast/id73330054?i=1000540845444](https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/the-science-show-full-program-podcast/id73330054?i=1000540845444)

or for windows users: <https://bit.ly/3CoXqcU>

or longer video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7c4LFBh9zRU>

Prof Doherty described how he has been very public in supporting vaccination, including on twitter. He discussed in detail the UQld vaccine (which had to be withdrawn due to cross-reactivity with AIDS diagnostic tests), Astra Zenica, mRNA (Pfizer and Moderna) and Novavax. He will be getting the booster shot as soon as practical, and advocates that all should do so, especially if vulnerable, immune compromised or front line exposed.

Rapid antigen testing has a place, but noted 15 minute waiting time, injector skill, etc can make it complicated where large numbers are involved in a short time frame (incl school, factory, etc).

A dreadful side issue of his public advocacy for vaccination has been anonymous threats and attacks (gladly only verbal on twitter etc) by trolls. Dr Fauci has been especially targeted by such anti-vax trolls, as can be heard in following interview last week reviewing the status of covid-19 in USA

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/12/podcasts/the-daily/anthony-fauci-vaccine-mandates-booster-shots.html?action=click&module=audio-series-bar®ion=header&pgtype=Article>

Aside from immunology, Prof Doherty also addressed his concerns about research funding in Australia, where silos are too common (ie inadequate communication/cooperation within and between federal depts, state depts, industry), aside from cuts to funding of CSIRO, covid impact incl overseas student funding model at universities etc. He would like to see a lot more cross functional cooperation, including training university researchers through stints in industry, and vice versa, a model which has been very successful in Germany, Scandinavia, MIT, etc.

Special thanks go to John Carter for conducting such a fine interview with our special guest.

Peter James 11/21