

STANDARD DEVIATIONS: Resolve Renewal

Greetings,

This missive represents the final Standard Deviations newsletter of 2018. What began as a simple New Year's resolution kind of morphed into something resembling an actual accomplishment. When I began the endeavor I planned to make it through the year, but my expectation was tempered by my dismal history of resolution failures. And yet, here we are.

The effort was certainly a learning experience for me. Ask anybody who has ever asked me to complete something on time and you'll understand my lack of familiarity with a "deadline". I shoved over fifty posts at you; some cute, some interesting, some boring, some short and sweet, some long enough to fill your little trash can icon. In retrospect, it's obvious that I had no idea what I was doing.

Hopefully, you have seen a thread running through most of the verbal barrage; **biosafety**. After all, that's been the point, and I tried (I really did) to make that a take-home for many of my articles. But I tried to touch on a broad spectrum of topics to convey my messaging. From Malaria to molasses, my intent has been to make the information interesting, enjoyable and thought-provoking.

Where to go from here? My 2018 resolution was to reach out to the clinical labs of Utah every week with a message of biosafety and with an aim of making the Utah Public Health laboratory something tangible and relatable. But a resolution should be something that lasts; a change for the better.

Moving into 2019, I will continue to promote biosafety and our awareness of the risks we face daily on the bench. But, let's face it, there are only so many ways to shout "FIRE!" before people realize it is mostly smoke. And there are other ways to skin cats (but, remember, at UPHL we only accept their heads for rabies testing). So I resolve to continue this outreach with new and novel approaches that support the mission of Utah Public Health and promote the safe delivery of clinical laboratory science to our communities.

Ultimately this is your newsletter; its future is in your hands (gloved or not).

So, here comes the pitch. I need to be able to justify the time I spend putting this work out, and for that I need your input. Should this project continue? Has it had value in your lab? I'm asking each reader to reply to this post with a yes or no vote to continue the project. If it doesn't have value for you and your laboratory then I need to find another path.

Well, got that out. I feel better. But what does it have to do with the newsletter? Here you go:

Dave Barry sayings:

"Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice."

"Not all chemicals are bad. Without chemicals such as hydrogen and oxygen, for example, there would be no way to make water, a vital ingredient in beer."

"If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be 'meetings.'"

"You can only be young once. But you can always be immature."

"Fishing is boring, unless you catch an actual fish, and then it is disgusting."

"The word user is the word used by the computer professional when they mean idiot."

"Your modern teenager is not about to listen to advice from an old person, defined as a person who remembers when there was no Velcro."

"The world is full of strange phenomena that cannot be explained by the laws of logic or science. Congress is only one example."

"Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic."

"Proofread carefully to see if you any words out."

"Your hand and your mouth agreed many years ago that, as far as chocolate is concerned, there is no need to involve your brain."

"A perfect parent is a person with excellent child-rearing theories and no actual children."

"If it weren't for marriage, men and women would have to fight with total strangers."

"A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person."

"There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age 11."

Oh, yeah, almost forgot.....GO UTES! Utah plays Northwestern tonight in San Diego's Holiday Bowl (5 p.m.).

Have a great week and be safe, see you next year,

Bryan