Deep Time and Your, Part 2

Knowledge of evolution. AIDS was going to happen, something like that. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are going to happen. Things that are alive are survivors. And things that are alive have ways to adapt if their environment changes. We have to beat that by being smart, because evolution is very slow process. It takes hundreds, thousands of generations. Modern humans have not been around long enough that evolution acts on us very much.

I have bad eyes. This is true. I've probably given my children bad eyes. But physical evolution doesn't matter to that any more. We solve it by being smart. I don't get eaten by a sabertooth tiger, A, because there aren't many sabertooth tigers running around out there, and B, because I have glasses so I can see. And so we outsmart these things, because we don't change fast enough by biological evolution that it matters, but bacteria that reproduce any 20 minutes-- they do.

And so we should know that evolution will happen, that we see the record of it in deep time, and that it matters to us. Because if you don't a really good expert in what bacteria are doing, what viruses are doing, what the flu is doing, how we can beat that when they change-- because they will change-- you're likely to die in the next pandemic. And if you do have really bright people across the street over here who are figuring out the new antibiotics and figuring out the new vaccines and figuring out what we can do about it when that happens, then we can go on being happy and healthy and terrific.

And so these knowledge of deep time things, whether it be oil, whether it be environmental issues, whether it be evolution bringing new diseases that we have to deal with, deep time matters.