

Why scientists should blog

2013 Canadian Science Policy Conference
Toronto, ON, Canada
November 22, 2013

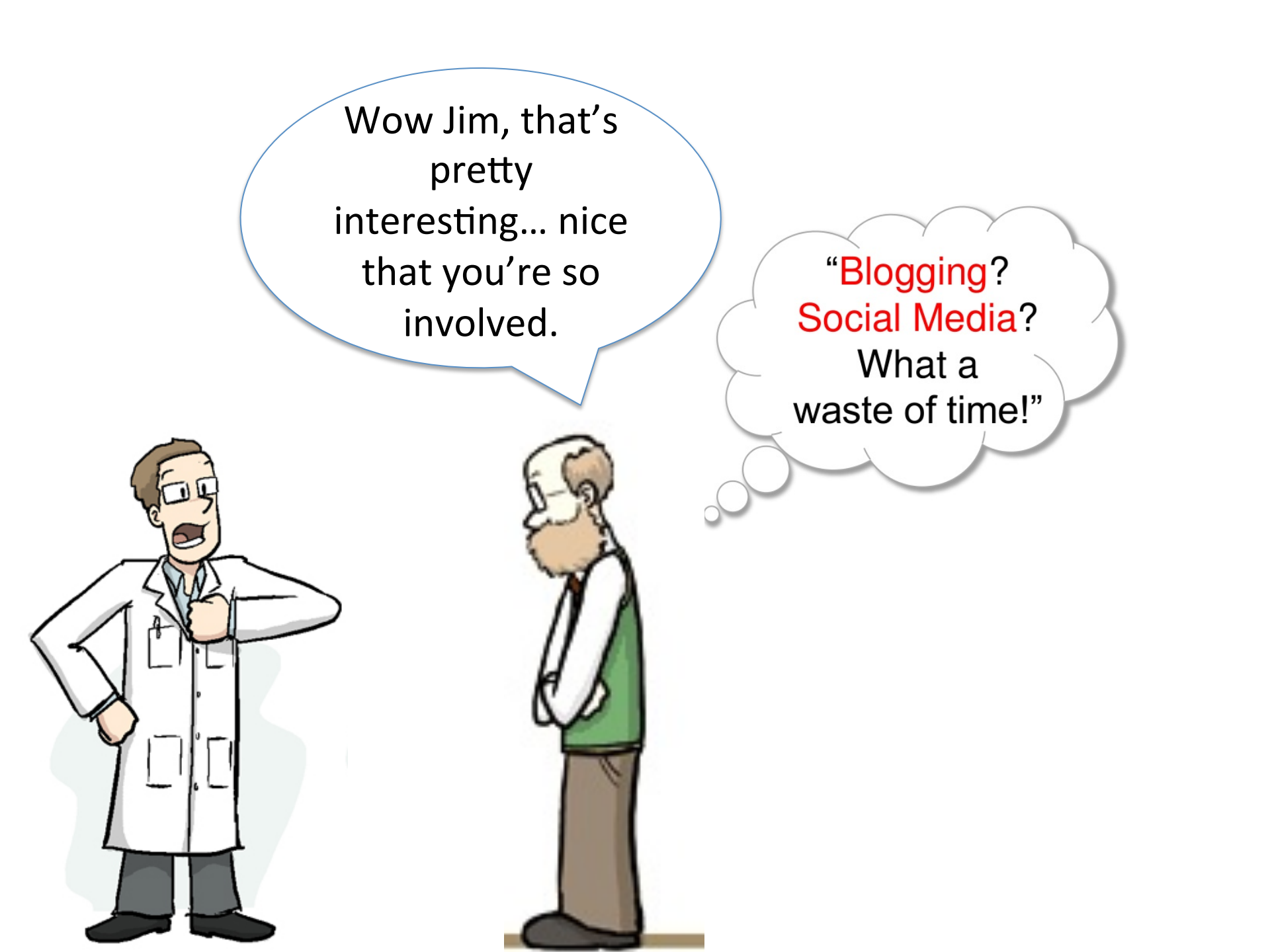
David Kent, PhD
Signals Blog (Stem Cell Network and CCRM)
The Black Hole Blog (University Affairs)

Prof. Smith – I just
started a science
blog and have 10,000
followers!



Wow Jim, that's
pretty
interesting... nice
that you're so
involved.






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Blogging?
Social Media?
What a
waste of time!"

Blogging is just for bloggers....or?



Cat blog


CATEGORIES

- [Duis solene scort affert](#)
- [Etatis et quasi archet](#)
- [Bem aperiam eoque la](#)
- [Koburribes dicit totibit](#)
- [Etatis et quasi archet](#)
- [Reutan vta sunt](#)

ARCHIVES

PHOTO GALLERY

20.12.2007



the most boring blog in the world

897

monday, october 17, 2005

Finally

Finally a place I can complain as much as I want. No one to get tired of my complaining. It's like cheap therapy. It's all good until I get carried away and say something really bad like.....I dunno I am not that carried away yet. So finally I am in my last year of school. This is meant to be a happy moment when you discover that you have only one year left in the jail that is school. But no they had to go ruin it for us in so many different ways. Firstly they had a special night devoted to telling us how hard this year is going to be and how many of us will probably have severe nervous breakdowns at some stage. Not like I didn't have better things to do with myself that night for example the 1500 word

about me

Steph

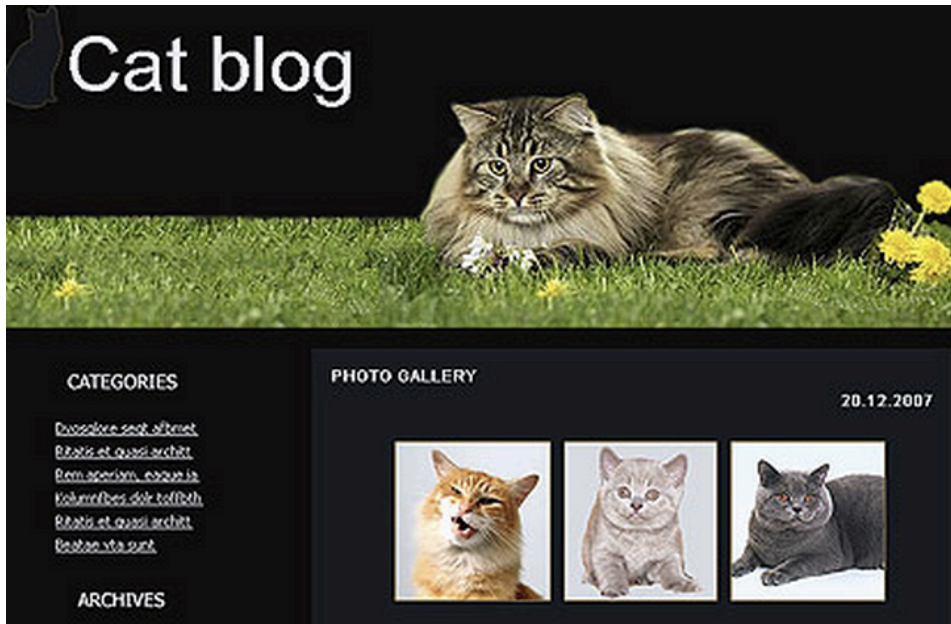
[View my complete profile](#)

previous posts

NEHA IS SMART OR MAYBE NOT
I am not so technologically challenged after all



Blogging is just for bloggers....or?



Problem: content is questionable and lacks value

- http://video-subtitle.tedcdn.com/talk/podcast/2011G/None/BenGoldacre_2011G-480p-en.mp4

Content-based blogging



- Rosie Redfield (UBC)
 - Saw a paper about a bacterium that could use arsenic instead of Phosphorus to survive
 - Thought “that’s rubbish”
 - Replicated it
 - Blogged it
 - Got a Science paper 2 years later

Why do I blog?

- Keeps me informed:
 - Funding policies in the UK, US, and Canada
 - Metabolomics in stem cells
 - Stem cell therapies

Why do I blog?

- Keeps me informed:
 - Funding policies in the UK, US, and Canada
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- Advocacy
 - Frustration at how scientists are trained
 - Self-interest in my own future trainees (I want happy workers!)

Who do I blog for?



Opinions and analysis of science and its applications



Opinions on science training and culture

Who do I blog for?



Filters the literature

People who trust my science, trust the science I recommend (or slam!)



Gets ideas and information into the hands of policy makers

Too much Talent? SSHRC's "solution" to the postdoc boom

- University of Alberta Asst. Prof challenges new rules

Tri-Councils should learn from EMBO fellowships

- Defined (and useful) eligibility rules
- Private pension plans
- Fellow's Network

Grumpy old men (and women) – feedback on proposed CIHR reforms

- Analysis of new program changes and the feedback received

Come on NSERC, really – you've completely missed the point...

- Response to NSERC's one application per lifetime rule for fellowships

Should you blog?

- Only if you have experience/authority in the area.
 - e.g., I will not blog on chemistry or physics
- Only if you have something to say

Alternative Metrics for Evaluating Scientists



Score in context

Puts article in the top 5% of all articles ranked by attention

show more...

Mentioned by

8 tweeters
1 news outlets

Readers on

9 Mendeley
0 CiteULike

Track this article

- Get email updates when this article is shared

Self-Renewal of Single Mouse Hematopoietic Stem Cells Is Reduced by JAK2V617F Without Compromising Progenitor Cell Expansion

Twitter News Score Demographics Help

So far Altmetric has seen 8 tweets from 8 accounts with an upper bound of 11,091 combined followers.



René Laennec
@renelaennec
500 followers

JAK2 mutations and properties of #hematopoietic #stemcells - #PLOSbiology paper
<http://t.co/odGSDq26hh>

05-Jun-2013



David Archila
@Etoxidavid
155 followers

"@PLOSbiology: JAK2 mutations and properties of #hematopoietic #stemcells - #PLOSbiology paper <http://t.co/gf1s7kHYi5>"@Xetia7

05-Jun-2013



pre-meD
@masterofsleep
364 followers

JAK2 mutations and properties of #hematopoietic #stemcells - #PLOSbiology paper
<http://t.co/odGSDq26hh>

05-Jun-2013



PLOS Biology
@PLOSbiology
8,364 followers

JAK2 mutations and properties of #hematopoietic #stemcells - #PLOSbiology paper
<http://t.co/odGSDq26hh>

05-Jun-2013



Cancer Medicine

JAK2 mutations and properties of #hematopoietic #stemcells - #PLOSbiology paper

Challenges for scientist blogging about science

- Getting scientist readers
 - Mostly personal networks

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Idea for someone: Trip Advisor for experiments