

Introduction of Pete Myers at the One Health, One Planet Symposium in the Phipps Conservatory, March 7, 2018, by Terry Collins

Thank you very much Richard and good evening ladies and gentlemen,

First on the Phipps, I would like to point out that this magnificent facility is a creation of Richard and his remarkable team. Some years ago, Richard took over an old and tired plant conservatory and created this spectacular gem in Pittsburgh's cultural and environmental life, where all the facets reflect the best our world has to offer in celebrating and protecting life and for the sustainability of our civilization. It would be a very different and vastly better world if our cities were built with attention to working with nature, rather than overpowering it, that is the Phipps hallmark. Pittsburgh is truly blessed to have Richard and his people here and the City knows it—Richard won an Outstanding CEOs and Top Executives Award in 2017 from the Pittsburgh Business Times.

We in the Institute for Green Science are proud to have been able to help Richard and Sarah States and the Phipps team to organize this One Health, One Planet symposium. We have endeavored to bring to Pittsburgh, for the education of the people, world leading researchers to talk about chemicals of concern in the environment, routes of exposure for humans and animals, and the tectonic implications of the low dose adverse effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals. As you will see tomorrow, endocrine disrupting chemicals are too often everyday-everywhere chemicals.

So now to our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Pete Myers: It is indeed my great privilege to introduce Pete. In life you are sometimes very, very lucky in the people you get to meet and hang out with. And with Pete, lucky indeed it has been for me and everyone connected with me professionally. Pete has been influencing our work through his publications since the mid 1990s. I first met Pete in the early 2000s and ever since I have had the great privilege of counting him as a close intellectual and personal friend.

On endocrine disruption, Pete was a key figure in the 1991 workshop in Racine Wisconsin at a place called Wingspread where a large and expanding suite of bizarre animal and human developmental defects were conceptualized as having a common origin—the interference by synthetic chemicals in the hormonal control of development from conception to full development—a period of about a quarter century for humans, significantly front-end loaded—and the maintenance of a stable balance in bodily functions, called homeostasis. This is big time stuff for life. Hormones tell cells what to become and they do so at infinitesimal concentrations in the body. When synthetic chemicals look enough like hormones to garble hormonal developmental commands, you get permanently injured creatures who experience diminished lives over what God had intended.

In the milieu of that intensely creative workshop, full as it was of scientific clairvoyants, Pete suggested the term “Endocrine Disrupting Chemical” to capture the culprit toxicants. The attendees chose the name and what was becoming a new and vital field was magnificently ordered and turbocharged as was essential for the public good. The Wingspread Consensus Statement of the conferees is an epic stroke of scientific insight. When considering the sustainability of the chemical enterprise, it is one of the very top insight documents of all time.

In 1996 Pete coauthored a book with Theo Colborn, that endocrine disruption force of nature who we so sadly lost in 2014, and Diane Dumanoski entitled “Our Stolen Future: Are We Threatening Our Fertility, Intelligence, and Survival?—A Scientific Detective Story.” Please think about this title as you watch the

presentations. This landmark book introduced endocrine disruption to the wider world. It is fully relevant in its content to this day in accurately forecasting what the world could expect from endocrine disruption. My class reads and analyses this book every year.

Next, all of you can experience another of Dr. Myers many remarkable brainchildren—the masterful email feed called *abovethefold*, a daily free briefing on the great health and environmental challenges of our world that Pete presided over for many years and is now superbly managed by Brian Bienkowski and led by Douglas Fischer. Additionally, for a number of years after the book came out, Pete maintained a website called *OurStolenFuture.com*, where he analyzed epic papers in endocrine disruption science making them easily comprehensible for non-specialists. This site had a huge impact on my teaching. I could hardly believe it when I learned that he did this by himself.

Then, Pete took this process of explaining the science to the world to industrial scale, so to speak, by recruiting scholars from all the disciplines that endocrine disruption impinges upon—and that's a lot of disciplines—to sit on a board connected to a powerful communications team that has for more than a decade met monthly to analyze new soon-to-be-published manuscripts and other matters, and to make sure the public gets a good opportunity to understand the content and implications.

Next, Pete co-created the Science Communication Scholars program where young environmental health scientists and green chemists get to work together in similarly analyzing these papers—the impacts on the scientific confidence, writing abilities and insight skills of the scholars is a wonder to behold.

Pete is an avid naturalist. At appropriate times of year, his office is an open deck in a forest near Charlottesville, VA. He is a stellar ornithologist who has for many decades produced exquisite photographs of birds and nature. Another co-created brainchild is the phone App *Birdseye*, which has everything you need to know about birds around you and allows you to communicate sightings—featuring Pete's beautiful bird photos.

So, as you will no doubt realize at this point, I consider Pete to be an amazing human being! On the human being side of things, there is a field of psychology and spirituality that analyzes the human male persona in order to help men to understand and improve who they are. It is really quite interesting and possibly of value to you all. There are four archetypal energies, each with a positive and negative side. The first is the King—you really know when you are in the presence of man with good king energy—Pete is such a man. I view the large interdisciplinary endocrine disruption interest group as an orchestra significantly assembled by Pete. Pete is its conductor. The second is the Warrior. Were this to be the 10th century, the epics coming out of the dark ages might be more than about Lancelot, Arthur and Guinevere and the like. Because of the massive importance to humanity, they could as easily be about Pete with his round table and corps of comrades-at-arms. Pete has hugely positive warrior energy, he is the kind of man others will enthusiastically follow to take on injustice associated with chemical toxicity. And with endocrine disruption as you will learn in this symposium, this injustice is so serious that how we handle it will determine whether or not we make it as a civilization and perhaps even as a species. The third is the magician—this is the archetype of the great creator who pulls wonders out of hats and helps people to see reality as it really is—Pete is a super magician. And the fourth is the lover—here Pete's respect of people and his love of nature leave no doubt about his great archetypal talents in the field of love.

So, ladies and gentlemen, I will now ask the conductor of the endocrine disruption orchestra to take the podium and wow us with his music. Please welcome Dr. Myers.