



Beyond the Noise

Paul Offit MD

Beyond the Noise is written by Paul Offit, MD, an infectious diseases physician, author, FDA advisor, new grandfather, and co-inventor of the rotavirus vaccine.

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Should Scientists Debate the Undebatable?

Joe Rogan invites debate after a misinformation-filled podcast with Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

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On June 20, 2023, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appeared on *The Joe Rogan Experience*, the most popular podcast in the world. Rogan was a comedian, actor, host of the television program *Fear Factor*, and color commentator for the Ultimate Fighting Champion. RFK Jr. is a lawyer. What better pair to educate the public about vaccines, science, and medicine?

The program was packed with dangerous and misleading information. For example:

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Kennedy said, "None of these vaccines are ever subjected to true placebo-controlled trials." All vaccines are tested in placebo-controlled trials before licensure. Perhaps the largest and most famous was that of Jonas Salk's polio vaccine, where 420,000