I really should have known better. The Twitter discussion that follows took place over the past three days. It was prompted by my article [1] about Miami's use of toxic organophosphate insecticides to kill mosquitoes, and how they work biochemically. DDT was used in the title ("Organophosphates: Zika Caused Florida To Embrace Insecticides Way More Toxic Than DDT.") for perspective. It had nothing to do with the article. It wasn't even mentioned. Not everyone agreed with this. Especially Ed. He is quite obstinate. I now have a stomach ache. Maybe even an ulcer. Thanks, Ed. The reason: Ed. He is supernaturally annoying. See for yourself.
Josh Bloom @JoshBloomACSH · Aug 14

@Ed Why are you jumping up and down? I wrote on cholinesterase inhibitors- not DDT, or DDT resistance. Did you even read it?

Ed @EdDarrell · Aug 14

You Tweeted an apology, claiming insecticides now "more toxic than #DDT." You forgot, two Tweets later? @JoshBloomACSH

Josh Bloom @JoshBloomACSH · 17h

@Ed if you do even the slightest tox research, you will find no measure that will prove that statement wrong. Read up on neurotoxins

Ed @EdDarrell · 17h

Instead of discussing effectiveness of pesticides, you imply a claim that #DDT would be safer. It isn’t. @JoshBloomACSH

Comment: He’s kidding, right?

Josh Bloom @JoshBloomACSH · 17h

@Ed Ok. You take a good snort of an organophosphates, and I’ll take one of DDT. One of us will be here the following day.

Comment: If he is married, condolence cards to his widow might be nice.
Ed @Ed 17h
Are you arguing for using #DDT? Yes or no. @JoshBloomACSH

Josh Bloom @JoshBloomACSH 16h
@Ed No. I am a medicinal chemist, not an entomologist. I have absolutely no idea which pesticide would be a better choice.

Ed @Ed 16h
No reason at all to mention #DDT in any piece about human reactions to #DDT, then, is there. @JoshBloomACSH

Josh Bloom @JoshBloomACSH 16h
@Ed OK. You got me. I did it solely to annoy you. Looks like it worked. U don't believe me. I don't care what you think. Enuf already.
Lessons

(1) There are times when a Twitter discussion is a terrible idea. This was one of them. There are certain topics where rational discussion is impossible. DDT is one of them. Vaccines are another. The mere fact that Andrew Wakefield is still considered to be a hero by some, rather than being in prison, is all the evidence you need. If people have their minds made up about something, no matter how crazy, they will argue, but not listen. Save your time and your stomach.

(2) Speaking of stomachs, we at the American Council believe in data, not fairy dust. I made the claim that Ed is annoying enough to have impacted my gastrointestinal system. Here are my data to support the claim:
Where the hell did my Tums go?

**Graphical depiction of the pH of my stomach as a function of time spent with Ed**

![Graph showing the pH of the stomach over time spent talking to Ed](image)

- Before
- 1 hour
- 6 hours
- One day
- Two days
- Now

Will dissolve Kryptonite

Source URL: https://www.acsh.org/news/2016/08/15/talk-to-a-ddt-zealot-or-hang-yourself-not-so-clear

Links