

Endnotes

What common scientific misconception would you most want to correct?

That natural and “organic” products do not contain chemicals.

Ronald Hodges (PhD '78)
PALO ALTO, CA



The misconception that cold weather locally means that the climate is not warming globally.

Ivar Tombach (BS '65, PhD '69)
CAMARILLO, CA

The misconception that there is a link between vaccinations and autism or autism spectrum disorders. This false belief has resulted in the recurrence of debilitating and potentially fatal diseases, and could lead to epidemics.

Fran Finney (BS '76)
SANTA BARBARA, CA

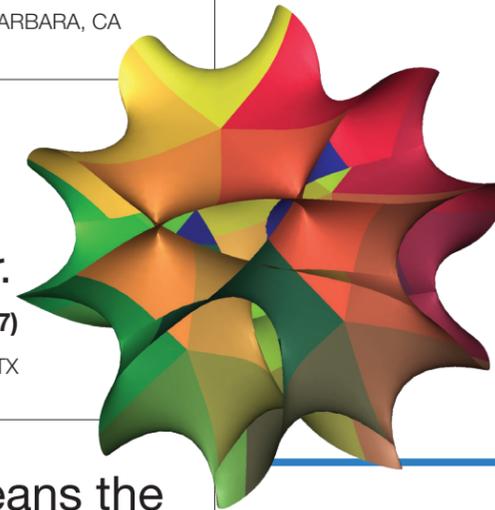
That a Parsec is a speed, not a distance.

Alice Tang (BS '79)
MORAGA, CA

↓
1 parsec = 3.26 light years

That the number of dimensions of reality is a small, finite number.

Paul Sobel (MS '67)
AUSTIN, TX



A 2-D cross-section of the 6-D manifold known in string theory as the Calabi-Yau quintic.

The misconception that there is a dark side of the moon. In truth, there is only a far side. Causes much confusion.

David Drake (BS '74)
ESCONDIDO, CA

* Our sun is classified as a “yellow-type” star, but it’s actually white. People depicting the sun as yellow isn’t a *serious* misconception, but it irks me.

Jessica Davis (BS '12)
DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND

That “A implies B” means the same as “B implies A” (which includes the misconception that correlation is equivalent to causation).

Michael Wilson (BS '77)
HINESBURG, VT

I think there are misconceptions about the methods and goals of science. Science isn’t a bag of facts; it’s a way of thinking and observing that helps sift evidence for and against theories.

Richard Yeh (BS '98)
BROOKLYN, NY

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