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Neil Garg Spotlight

Reading about Neil Garg and his philosophies was intriguing because he addressed several issues that I have found prevalent. One such issue is the way certain concepts, like organic chemistry, are perceived. Most people that I have met are not willing to admit that an OChem course is enjoyable or applicable. After hearing the negative comments about OChem, I decided to keep an open mind but was still a little concerned about my success in the class. Because I tried to keep my mind open, I found that OChem actually is enjoyable for me and while it may not be directly applicable in every profession, I can see many ways how what I learn in this class can benefit me in my career.

Embarrassingly, I really didn't know what organic chemistry was before researching Prof. Garg. I knew it was chemistry, obviously, but I never took the time to think how it's different from other branches of chemistry. I learned that it's a branch of chemistry that deals with compounds that have covalent bonded carbons. I also realized that the way to solve most if not all OChem problems, is to break it down into smaller parts, solve the smaller problem, then fit those solutions together to solve the bigger problem.

Total synthesis seems very interesting to me because I aspire to create things and, to my understanding, total synthesis is the creation of a complex molecule by combining more simple precursors. It has always fascinated me that the known elements can combine in so many different formations. I am currently studying to be a chemical engineer and one of my dreams that lead me to this major was the possibility of drug synthesis. I also started to think about how important creativity is in chemistry whereas I used to think there was only creativity in engineering but not in the actual science. Now I believe that if more people who are creative would be steered toward science instead of away from it, the world would be much farther along scientifically than it is now.

Garg mentioned that curved monitors are a product of organic chemistry, but I would like to know how. Some other questions I have are 'What are more ways that OChem (along with my other classes) apply to my long-term goals?' and 'How can I better use previously acquired knowledge to my advantage while in this class?'. While reflecting on these questions, I appreciate Garg's attitude about struggling students and how they should be encouraged to keep trying and look at different concepts in a way that can make sense to them.

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What is Kenneth n. trueblood

Living in the dorm?
Synthesis?

How solve cancer?
Curved screens
Medicine
3bil/week video games

Im in the 10-15%
Perception is key
How does ochem relate
Retro synthetic analysis -