

Participate Webinar

The International Science Reserve: Mobilizing Scientific Minds for Global Impact

Speakers: Benjamin Young, senior program manager of strategic initiatives, the New York Academy of Sciences and Julie Keane, CLO, Participate

Live webinar date: March 11, 2024

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00:01:40.710 --> 00:01:43.450

Julie Keane, PhD: We'll give everyone one more minute to flow in here.

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00:01:44.480 --> 00:01:46.009

Julie Keane, PhD: Nice to see you, then.

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00:01:49.230 --> 00:01:50.339

Benjamin Young, PhD: for it to be here.

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00:02:07.720 --> 00:02:35.639

Julie Keane, PhD: Alright, we're gonna get started. Thanks for joining us and for everyone who has signed up today they will receive a recording and a and a brief summary. So I'm so excited to have you here today. Ben, and just introduce myself first, I'm Julie Kane, Chief Learning officer, participate, and together with purpose driven organization. Certainly, like our guest. Today we help people learn and work better together through inclusive and engaging online communities of practice.

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Julie Keane, PhD: And I'm very pleased to welcome everyone to this webinar. In our lifelong Learning Conversation Series. It has truly become one of the highlights of my job that I get to do this every month. The Virtual conversation series offers an informal opportunity. So we don't really do a ton of like slides. We really wanna have this time where we get to have a conversation to learn from a range of experts on topics related to

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Julie Keane, PhD: kind of empowering lifelong learners. Before we get started, I wanna share a few technical notes. Captions are available for the webinar. But please let us know in the QA. Function if they're not working, and please also submit any questions for Ben or for myself in the QA. Function on Zoom, and they will be monitored throughout the session, and we can try to get to as many questions as we can before the end.

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Julie Keane, PhD: And also we're gonna be using for the webinar. We'll use the chat function to share resources and relevant info with you along the way, and, as I mentioned earlier, we'll be sharing a recording of this webinar with you. Following

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Julie Keane, PhD: alright before we begin I'd love to get an idea of who we have joining us today. So we're gonna pop up a quick poll. Please take 30 s and answer the question.

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Julie Keane, PhD: and then also, if you don't see the poll, just check the toolbar of your zoom window.

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Julie Keane, PhD: Yeah, this just allows Ben and myself to understand who who's with us today.

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Julie Keane, PhD: No bed. This is where I get to. Always challenge myself to have

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Julie Keane, PhD: silent time listening time.

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00:04:27.260 --> 00:04:40.500

Julie Keane, PhD: Alright. So we have some for profit, nonprofit, and some educators here with us from K. 12, which is wonderful. So I hope that there are probably some researchers in there, I would imagine, from your community.

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Julie Keane, PhD: So let's get started. Alright. I am thrilled to welcome today's featured guest. Benjamin, Young, senior program manager of strategic initiatives at the International Science Reserve, which is an initiative of the New York Academy of Sciences that's building a global network of scientists ready to act when and amid global crises.

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Julie Keane, PhD: Ben develops global programs and partnerships at the International Science Reserve Isr to advance scientific research and address global crises. He works with leading scientists and institutions, worldwide, fostering cross disciplinary and cross border collaborations.

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Julie Keane, PhD: In doing so, Ben has led strategic initiatives in various sectors, including academia, nonprofit philanthropy, focusing on social impact and community solutions. Among his many achievements, Ben holds a Ph. D. From Columbia University with teaching experience at Columbia, Princeton. And here comes my terrible French! He called Norma superior in France.

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Julie Keane, PhD: Welcome, Benjamin, and I could not ask for a better guest to talk about the power of community practice so welcome to our series.

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Julie Keane, PhD: Thanks so much. It's such a pleasure to be here, and I love the name of your series. Lifelong learning fits really well, with the I source community practice, obviously. And the Isars broader mission. So very excited. Okay, I know we have some questions that we talked about before the webinar. But I really do want our our audience to know about how you got to this job.

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Julie Keane, PhD: I'm very curious, just in terms of your background. If you could just take a minute to to tell us how you got to this current place in your career.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Well, I think one reason is. Serve with lots of institutions. Crumbling. That sounds a little dark around this and the sort of rising importance of science, and that context, and and also emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Th. This, the the role of science, is kind of further heightened. I think that's kind of how I roll arrived at this role. Thinking about how my broad background and public policy consulting

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Benjamin Young, PhD: higher education and social impact work. Could

kind of be of use. And I sort of had to be part of building this new initiative when I found out about it. Sort of brought things together nicely. So can you tell us about the International Science Reserves Mission to mobilize scientific expertise globally and the traction you've seen to date. So I think, just extending from that from your personal experience. Tell us about that mission.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: That's right. We are. We're mobilizing a truly global network. Of scientists and stakeholders, and our network is 10,000 strong and growing from over a hundred countries. To prepare and respond to big challenges like the next pandemic or pressing climate emergencies. And so one of the fundamental aims is to facilitate cross border transdisciplinary scientific collaborations.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: And to our traction, and I think the fact that so many have joined the Isr indicates that there's a real interest and motivation from scientists and stakeholders, and a few of the things that I think explain. The early success beyond that. I think I'll break them down to 4 main points is our network is completely free and open.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Our model includes partners from across Academia Ngos government bodies and the private sector. For instance, 2 of our founding partners are Ibm and Google, and we are internationally, Ver, very intentionally international in our focus. So our membership really is international. Over half of our members come from? What's sometimes referred to as the global South?

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Benjamin Young, PhD: So an Isr member from the University of Nairobi might collaborate with a member from the Uk. At Cambridge University, or a researcher at Antalya. Turkey might work on a crisis. With someone from Tokyo and then, finally, what we do, and particularly what we're doing online with participate is very much driven by our members. And I think that's helped. Catalyze. What we're doing.

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Julie Keane, PhD: Yeah, I do not think I can overstate this. Enough that you know your our partnership. You're you're teaching us

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Julie Keane, PhD: every day sort of the power of communities of practice as a model for change making and cross disciplinary work. And so I'm curious if you could focus in on that the model of a community practice, how you see that working and how you how that fostering collaboration cause that can also offer challenges, doing things. You know, time zones and cross. Cultural collaboration, different perspectives on the problem, different perspectives on scientific research. So

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Julie Keane, PhD: I would just be curious about your thoughts there in terms of how you've leveraged that. But then how? How the daily work goes on?

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Yeah, absolutely. So

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Benjamin Young, PhD: that the the communities are practice, or one of the things that really drew us to participate. It's it's a an important part of your approach, and it's something that was important to us as well. So we really believe that collaborative or collective knowledge is powerful. And so the concept of a community practice just fits perfectly with this our mandate from a practical perspective. It also has to be easy. So I mentioned,

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Benjamin Young, PhD: that the Isr is completely free and open. And anyone who's interested simply goes to our website, Isr dotnias.org little plug. So, isr.nyas.org.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Yeah, thank you. Signs up. And then when you fill out our simple form. You're then invited to join our digital hub. That's what we call it. And that's everything that goes on on the participate platform and centered around the community of practice. So once you join you can be part of the various activities and offerings that we have on participate centered around that model and where scientists can begin engaging and prepare

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Benjamin Young, PhD: activities. In particular, learning together, and also interacting with our wonderful community manager. We'll probably talk about later. As as he would say, everyone is thriving together in

this community practice.

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Julie Keane, PhD: That's fantastic. So is there like a particular success story, or even significant impact, or even a challenge. However, you wanna take this, you know this next question, just something that really kind of exemplifies for you. The power of what you're doing.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Yeah, something that could be a challenge. But that really is where we draw our power from at the Isr, I think, is our particularly diverse membership when it comes to scientific fields and countries represented other things as well. But but those 2 main aspects?

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Benjamin Young, PhD: I think it's what gives our our community a big advantage in the end. So we do everything to harness these aspects in our network. In our participate community. We're still in public, Beta, or that's what we call it. So we're still experimenting. But I'll highlight 3 3 things that have been successful for us there in the community practice.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: So I know I alluded to this, and we'll talk about in this in a second. But first and foremost, we have a truly wonderful community manager jets and shell, who plays a key role.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: And we can talk about that a little more. Second, we're leveraging the Isarsar's model of using prices, scenarios across preparedness activities for scientists. And that seems to work really well. And yeah, third, we're rolling out very types of activities that are designed for the different scientists. So it's kind of addressing the potential challenge I mentioned. And so they feature crises that affect regions different

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Benjamin Young, PhD: differently. And in formats that appeal differently to people overall and and different types of scientists. And and along with that we have an amazing group of beta testers who've helped us a lot. I think that's also

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Benjamin Young, PhD: something that we've hardest. They're just a super smart bunch. Really believes innately in the Isars Mission. So we've got scientists and and various areas of research. But they're from Chile, Turkey, the UK, just to name a few. So really diverse. And and we're inviting more people to join that group as well. So cool. So I mean, this is something that I know here a participate. We talk about a lot which is.

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Julie Keane, PhD: there's the community piece, but it's really the P part, which is what is the practices. And I think, where we've seen. And I think it's always a challenge, particularly in online communities. It's like, what is that practice actually look like? And I think that's where Isr has really shown us the way and given us a lot of cool models and examples. Can I ask you to just dig in and give us an example, if it's possible, of

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Julie Keane, PhD: of the site type of scenario. So this is almost like a problem space that you have the community work on together. Could you give us an example of that?

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Yeah. And so we're we're what we're building so we've done big exercises with sort of in depth scenarios. Now we're trying to do kind of Mini scenarios and many activities, but keeping them serious around this game. So little easier to do and with the amount of participate participation that each person wants.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: But, for example, we do have. We have a little game that we haven't launched yet, but if people join they'll see it soon around a hurricane that's coming. And you just have a very short amount of time to think about that as if you're in in the crisis situation. And then a as a scientist sort of just think about what you would do first, and a list of options. So

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Benjamin Young, PhD: what would be the things you would prioritize or not, or what would be the tools you would use? Or not? And so yeah, that's just an example and activity that we're doing.

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Julie Keane, PhD: great. And then I can imagine that you know using I mean, first of all I know, I when I share this with our our game based friends, we we have some other partners near call of science as well, and you know, I think game for for children. And also when we work with K. 12 teachers, knowing that scientists do this right in some ways, you're using.

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00:14:46.080 --> 00:14:59.680

Julie Keane, PhD: you know, game based approaches as well as problem based and that this is something that kids really gravitate towards. So we're always trying to push classrooms. To use this approach. So it's really wonderful to hear scientists

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Julie Keane, PhD: sort of coming together on these sort of mock scenarios that that's actually how they think about doing their work, and then because of that cross collaboration, I imagine they would then bring that to their own local context, which is like, look what I learned from this scientist in Turkey. Look what this person in chile is doing. So I think that's really awesome. Alright, I do wanna also give a plug to we have. II would like to. We have the smartest,

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Julie Keane, PhD: smartest product feedback team in the world. So not only do we have this group of scientists. You've been with us as we've been really rapidly developing new features on our platform. And so I just thought, if there's any like, you know part of that process with us that you'd love to give feedback on. You've been incredible, and your community incredibly generous with giving us feedback, and I think the success of our of

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Julie Keane, PhD: how we support communities to practice. You know we owe you a huge debt, so I'd love to hear just your experience with that briefly, if you could.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Yeah, it's been. It's been really wonderful to to partner with you guys, partner with participate. You, Julie, Don, and and the whole team. And so we yeah, we we we kind of collaborated on on your amazing contextual discussions which are really central to the platform, and so smart and I just mentioned I mean, there are a bunch of things. Oh.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: maybe not so much a feature. But the fact that your mobile first and you you work really well. Your platform works really well and on very devices and very global E, you know context with different types of bandwidth. That's important to us as well. But we're particularly excited about batching that you've that you've just launched, and that we collaborated on as well, and that we're just rolling out. But but we love that.

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Julie Keane, PhD: I know you've mentioned your community manager, and this is another way in which, you know, you've been a model for us, and and an example that we we share with others. Because you've leaned into the importance of a community manager. You know the technology. You can't just build it and they will come. We don't. This will not work. So can you talk a little bit about the community manager. And then I guess you know, flowing into how you've been using recognition systems for your community practice cause, I think that's also great.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So I mentioned Jatson, Carlos Dosantos. He goes by jets and gel, but he plays a really vital role. He's at the center of this community. And actually, we held an extensive search for a community manager had an impressive group of finalists, but felt so lucky to find Jadson. He's a first rate early career scientist himself. So he in his own right in genetics.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Who really lives the Isr's mission and and the community's mission. So he's really passionate about leadership and the role of science and and making scientists leaders and change makers. Who kind of have real world impact beyond their their siloed research. So he really believes in working together in in transdisciplinary ways.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: So he brings all of that. Yeah, just to to everything we do. His fine grain understanding of both our community and sort of our purpose, and the the community of practice itself.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: So so yeah, so that's that's Jackson. And then so and we're working with the recognition systems with badging in

particular, he's central to that as well, and we launched our first batch, which was just a member badge, and I saw Member badge that people can display on the platform and on other platforms like LinkedIn to say, Hey, I'm an Isr member and part of the Isr community on participate.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: and the feedback from from that we've gotten already. It's been tremendously positive. They people just loved it. Our our community members loved it.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: And over the coming weeks we'll be rolling out a series of activities and games like the ones we talked about. Each one will have a badge or a series of badges that you can earn when you participate in these preparedness activities? We're just really excited about this. I can't wait to highlight this, I mean, is there one like, I know you're rolling them out. Is there one in particular you're excited about that's coming up?

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Benjamin Young, PhD: we've got different prices like flooding Wildfire. There's one that's that I think will roll out also. That is sort of a a Po pulling poly crisis. One so we'll get people thinking about emerging challenges that touch almost every up facet of of our lives. And and thinking of that in the context of global crisis. So I don't wanna say too much more yet. But that one

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Julie Keane, PhD: everyone you know stay tuned and please keep keep. You know, access. the website. I know Christine has been putting these resources into into the chat. Because II you know, I think it's interesting to me. And I guess I'm just gonna ask you a couple of more questions just around the recognition piece, because these are scientists that have already been through

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Julie Keane, PhD: really rigorous. You know, they they all hold Phds different different certifications. And I think in the badging community there's always that you know. What's the rigor and who's issuing it? And II guess I'm curious like, what do you think the value of for your community in particular, of this kind of activity and this recognition around their collaboration around scenarios? These are not being issued by.

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Julie Keane, PhD: You know a university is not being issued by a country. It's being issued by a community to recognize each other. And I guess yeah, just I don't know where my question is there? But I think I'm curious. Your thoughts there about what that traction is about.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Yeah, absolutely. So. And I should say we're just starting with the badging, so remains to be seen how that fits in with everything. But it's very much what you were saying so, yeah, this is not a a university certification. At all, but it is a signal of something. And for I know, for Jadson or community manager. It's the main thing is being part of this collective effort, part of a global movement. That we think is being built by our by our members.

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But you know and you'll you'll also be able to indicate that you're thinking about your research in the context of

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Benjamin Young, PhD: these very important potential crises, one ones that are likely to occur that we have historical examples of, and that are recurring more and more frequently.

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00:21:24.430 --> 00:21:48.209

Julie Keane, PhD: Yeah. So there is a I noticed that there is a question. In the chat. Around, and mostly it was around the scenario you mentioned earlier in our conversation. We had a listener. Who's audio dropped out. So if you would just recap that, and then maybe another one, you know another scenario. Related to that.

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00:21:48.700 --> 00:22:13.700

Benjamin Young, PhD: Yes. So that was probably the Mini Mini scenario on hurricane right? Right? Right? Right? Right? So that one the example we use is a a a very first for hurricane category. 5 hurricane that's approaching. The coast that as they usually do and so we the it's what goes along with that is just an activity where actually, you think about potential policy

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Benjamin Young, PhD: decisions that can be taken and why you would select certain ones over others based on the scenario of this

particular hurricane and the location and anything else that you want to factor in.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: We have worked on other scenarios like wildfires that spread over multiple countries.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: We. We had a great one around flooding and a really interesting one around. Food, prop prices. So if one of the 4 major food props that sustain most of our societies.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: we're unavailable for whatever reason, whether it's a natural reason, like abrupt daylight reduction. So the crop can't grow, or something like a nuclear disaster. We would. We don't really talk too much about that, but it's a possibility. You know. What would you do? You'd have to grow alternative props. But it's important to prepare for all these types of scenarios. So that's another example.

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Julie Keane, PhD: And there's another one in and thanks Rebecca, for these questions. So there was a question around scenarios on air quality, particularly pollution from mobile sources.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: mobile sources. Interesting.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: I'm not sure what the the person means in that context, and I'm not myself an expert. But definitely air pollution

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Benjamin Young, PhD: when you have a wildfire that obviously contributes to our air pollution. So we actually did have scientists who propose kind of projects for that scenario that had to do with with the air pollution from a wildfire. So the crises we look at at the Isr that are increasing. That certainly is one but but less sort of the continuous crisis. That's slowly progressing, and more the fast paced ones.

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Julie Keane, PhD: That are as for a certain timeframe. Like a hurricane.

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00:24:01.930 --> 00:24:31.529

Julie Keane, PhD: So I hope that help answers your question. So the mobile sources are cars, trucks? Yeah, II was like, yeah. So there's probably pollution. This goes from like creating mobile device. But yes, if I if I could. So what you're saying is that these are right now, these scenarios are really focused on the sort of you know, this kind of like this disaster is coming, or it's, you know, like a wildfire or hurricane. I would say that cars and trucks and the pollution. Rebecca

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Julie Keane, PhD: would be sort of this current disaster. But that has been ongoing, and a constant right?

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Benjamin Young, PhD: Yeah, yes. And also, we're looking at things that impact several countries at once. Now, I mean the pollution from cars. Certainly do. But but yeah, it's just a slightly different take? So this brings up another question I have before, and you know, of course I could, you know, keep asking your questions, but we'll probably have to wrap up soon. But

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Julie Keane, PhD: in terms of the scenarios. Is this, do you envision a community kind of coming up with them? Or is this still something that sort of Isr and your community manager decides like, how how do you make that decision about what the scenario is, that's a great question, and kind of a little bit of both. So they have been expert, driven by the eyesource partners.

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Benjamin Young, PhD: So that when I mentioned on food props, we have a partner that works specifically on that. They're really experts. But we we are thinking about asking for the community to contribute their ideas, and then bringing in experts that they might be directly from the community or others to kind of talk these through and and come up with really good scenarios so

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00:25:42.200 --> 00:26:02.280

Julie Keane, PhD: awesome. So, Rebecca, I invite you to, you know.

Come on in and and collaborate, and I think there'll be some wonderful opportunities there. For you to suggest some. I do think you know different levels. And you know, I do know with with air pollution. What's interesting is when you have those extreme events like.

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00:26:02.300 --> 00:26:28.149

Julie Keane, PhD: you know, Beijing will have sort of an extreme event. Obviously, we you mentioned the wildfires. I'm a New York City native. You're living in New York City. So certainly the wild, the Canadian wildfires last year. I mean the air quality in New York was the worst ever recorded. Globally right in one single day. So I think those ongoing challenges really do burst into kind of a crisis or an immediate crisis.

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Julie Keane, PhD: All right. So I don't think we have any more question. Oh, wait! Let me just check.

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00:26:34.410 --> 00:26:57.680

Julie Keane, PhD: Oh, yeah, and just again a reminder to everyone that this wonderful conversation has been recorded. We will be sharing it out. Our wonderful team here will be summarizing it into a nice blog post. So please share those and also please look out for details for upcoming webinars, because again, we just have the most awesome guest really doing

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00:26:57.830 --> 00:27:04.959

Julie Keane, PhD: critical work in our community and using technology to connect to each other

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00:27:04.990 --> 00:27:15.619

Julie Keane, PhD: and to use that sort of harness, that collective mind which is extremely powerful. When you get people collaborating, especially across cultures like this, it's just incredible.

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00:27:15.680 --> 00:27:41.719

Julie Keane, PhD: so I wanted to wrap up, and just I don't know Liz or Christine over at our team if we were going to have a little poll just as we kind of close out if you have time for folks that are on the call. If there's, you know, one word you'd use to describe today's conversation. We also use that as feedback for our next and future ones. So thanks for joining that.

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Julie Keane, PhD: Give people a minute to answer.

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Julie Keane, PhD: and then in the in the remaining minute, I just do. Wanna thank you again for joining us. And and it's really a privilege to partner with you so, and I do. And, by the way, can you also tell me what is in your background? I love it. Oh, really!

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00:28:10.030 --> 00:28:26.280

Julie Keane, PhD: Alright. So thanks again for everyone providing feedback, and we will see you next month, and please look out for details of that, and look out for the recording of this great conversation. And please do check out the Isr's website at the New York Academy of Sciences.

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00:28:26.510 --> 00:28:30.200

Julie Keane, PhD: Thanks so much, Julie. Yeah, thanks. Thanks. Everyone.