

**To:** Jeffrey Epstein[jeevacation@gmail.com]  
**From:** Charles L. Harper Jr.  
**Sent:** Sun 7/11/2010 1:48:32 PM  
**Subject:** Re:

Hi Jeffrey,

Your note from yesterday asked "next step?"

The last time we spoke, you had suggested that you and I plan to meet up at MIT with Seth Lloyd and Scott Aaronson. I checked to see if we could rig a time convenient to all four schedules.

This was not workable for the time frame you had suggested of early July.

The situation for a next step, I think, can be quite straightforward:

1. We have a great topic ("Cryptography in Nature") according to both Scott and Seth. They are both highly enthused.  
(See earlier note from me below.)

2. We have a list of about 25 names of highly talented people, provided by both Scott and Seth.

3. We have a range of subtopics suggested by both Scott and Seth.

4. What is needed is to narrow the list from ~25 or 30 to select a core group of 8 to 10 invitees.

5. This should be based (I suggest) on Scott and Seth meeting together and refining/narrowing the focus according to instructions we would supply.

6. I suggest that you and I consider a way to make the plan more strategic than that of "just a good interesting meeting."

For example, the meeting could have as a goal the strategizing and shaping of a small initial grants competition to offer, say, 5 grants at the \$10K-to--\$25K level with a total grants budget of, say, \$75K to \$100K. The meeting would "set the focus" for the development of the specific technical foci of the grants competition.

Seth and Scott think it would be good to include Max Tegmark.  
"relationship-building" with him will be prudent for the longer-term.

7. I suggest also that we set a rough date for the 2-day meeting and also suggest a set of possible locations to Scott & Seth:

For example:

Fast time-scale: MIT in late August or early September. (preferred if the agenda is to move quickly and get something started-up)

More time for prep: Five months from now in early January. (preferred on grounds of the development of the thinking)

(Note than maybe 60% of participants could be from MIT)

Possible locations: MIT,  
Nantucket  
your home in Palm Beach,  
your home in the Virgin Islands,  
your home in NYC

8. Let me know what your suggestions are.

9. The next two weeks are good for me to do some work on this. I'll be on a holiday in Vermont, working in the mornings.

10. Thanks for being in-touch. I'm excited about this project based on the to me fascinatingly strong intellectual-scientific interest of Seth & Scott.

Allbest,

Charles Harper

FOR REFERENCE:

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **Charles L. Harper Jr.** <[REDACTED]>  
Date: Sat, May 29, 2010 at 8:12 AM  
Subject: Re:  
To: Jeffrey Epstein <[jeevacation@gmail.com](mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com)>

Hi Jeffrey,

Great to hear from you. I was just up at MIT this week and met with Seth Lloyd (on Wednesday) and Scott Aaronson (on Thursday) on the "Cryptography in Nature" small research conference project.

These interactions were fantastic. Both think the topic is wonderful and innovative and has promise. In fact I was somewhat astonished by their enthusiasm and the depth of adventure they see in the topic. The situation is very good. I now have a list of great names (about 25) including a number of names of young scholars selected for extraordinary future promise. The problem will be to narrow down the list to the 8 pr 10 we want.

I did contact Max Tegmark about a month ago to propose the essay

contest approach we discussed. He and his colleagues offered support but did not think that FQX should do it. Reasons they gave were that they saw the topic as too narrow and too technical compared to the essay contests they have been doing. It is possible that the real reason was prudence to avoid FQX, already quite "controversial" via Templeton support to become even more so via Epstein-related sponsorship of prizes. If so, I think their perspective is not unreasonable in view of their agenda to build relationships with other donors, though ironically what you and I are working on would develop a nice topically-rich and deep program linkage with another major donor. My general advice in this matter is that we should build a relationship slowly and build trust. Seth has suggested Max as a key person to invite to the meeting.

So basically just this week I have been able to get the key information needed to set the invitations. I am now at Princeton for 4 days but not in an academic capacity. My daughter Becky will graduate in Astrophysics and I am attending my 30th reunion and my wife's father, James Billington (the Librarian of Congress) is attending his 60th.

Within two weeks I can put together an annotated "final" long list of potential invitees for you to select from. Since we would not do an essay contest via FQX, the organizing cycle can be faster to do the meeting.

I hope you are doing well and look forward to planning a worthwhile event with you.

Again, I am delighted to have gotten such very strong affirmation, input and scientific enthusiasm from both Seth and Scott. You have very brilliantly suggested a profound topical focus area. Super!!

Allbest,

Charles Harper

On Jul 10, 2010, at 9:06 AM, Jeffrey Epstein wrote:

next step?

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