

Good morning all.

It appears we'll be making up for lost rain over the coming few days. Farmers rejoice, oh and golf courses too.

Big week in Roscoeland, hopefully that isn't copyrighted somewhere.

Our son graduated "virtually" from high school. Not the kind of school year anyone would have dreamt of, but nonetheless onwards and upwards hopefully.

Also the grownups in the family – I'm including myself in that term – received their second doses. We're part of the AstraZeneca/Moderna experiment. So far so good. If these articles tend to wander further than in the weeks to come please let me know and I'll quickly blame the experiment, ask for a refund, etc.

It does feel like things are creeping slowly back towards normalcy. Although the next stage of re-opening does certainly seem like a modest step forward. That being said greater freedoms are coming whether that be next week, or next month. While Canada has been late to the party, vaccination rates are at attractive high rates and continuing at a strong pace. Go Canada (Go Habs), Go. Not a Montreal fan per se, but I think you got to root for the home(country) team.

Some people were skittish last week as inflation talk heated up, well this week the market decided to no longer focus on that and rallied a few percent for the week. Hints of progress on a US infrastructure bill may have offered some optimism.

So I have some mRNA vaccine coursing through my system. I think we've all learned over the last year that this type of treatment is different, not a dead virus like we've been used to with traditional flu vaccines. mRNA treatments are revolutionary – even if they hadn't really proved their mettle in the past.

Looking back on past periods of severe stress on society (pandemics/depressions/etc) you can see that some of the most important advancements occur during those periods. You either need to solve a problem quickly or things could inexorably get worse.

That may very well be what we'll have happen with the scientific advancements as we exit from this pandemic. And perhaps there is nowhere that may offer greater benefits than through mRNA technologies.

mRNA was discovered 60 years ago. It's been around a long time. Many different researchers have dabbled in it, looking at it from various angles, trying to determine ways in which it may assist or treat things.

Well it takes a pandemic for it to leap to the forefront with both Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech building very efficient vaccines in warp speed time frames.

What's perhaps more hopeful is how many other ways this same technology may be able to help/treat/cure other issues as we move forward.  
Many will, and should be watching with baited breath.

There is optimism that mRNA technology may help with longstanding health issues such as malaria where 400,000 people die per year. A treatment there may only be a few years away.  
The common flu which takes around 650,000 people per year is certainly likely to be treated via mRNA.

Tuberculosis, HIV, and larger issues such as cancer and heart disease are all being looked at for treatment via mRNA, much of the research is sparking significant optimism.

So creating an immune response, creating some of the vaccine side effects some of us felt, tells us that the body is working to protect. That's great news for most.

On the other side you have people with autoimmune issues, where these heightened immune responses from these vaccines perhaps aren't viewed as favourably. Well good news is that they even believe mRNA may have the ability to work the other way, and lower immune responses in those with autoimmune disorders, from MS and all the way to allergies (hayfever anyone?).

This thing may turn out to be a silver bullet for many, many things.

The article is from [Der Spiegel](#) (solid Irish magazine). It's a great read going over the mRNA history but yet shedding light on what could be a very positive future for various ailments that they discuss in decent depth.

A feel good way to end the week/start the weekend.

Enjoy the first weekend of summer.  
Slainte.

Penning by Greg Roscoe

Sincerely,

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