

Rick Mullins: On writing the textbook

Video Speaker

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I think what drove me to be an author was seeing the deficiencies in other organic chemistry textbooks and the way that students use them. I hope that what we could put together was a textbook that that engages the students, inspires them to read it, inspires them to learn more organic chemistry and have some fun along the process.

Organic chemistry is a difficult subject. And if we can teach students how to solve problems in a way that's dynamic and engaging with personality. A book that has a rapport with students in the same way that an instructor has a rapport with students. Well, that's really what the goal was. That's what drew me to undertake this project that's really gone on for the last eight years.

Eight years. This was an eight year journey. And for all of us involved, my wife, my children, family, everybody that had to, you know, wait for me to join the Thanksgiving dinner because I was at a coffee shop working on the book. It was a journey, a roller coaster of ups and downs, a marathon and, you know, the start of a marathon. That's easy. You get to the end or get to the mile 20. That's really hard. But the main mile 26, there's nothing better. And I kind of got the opportunity to get to mile twenty six of this marathon. And one of them was when we hit submit. Just such a super cool moment, the culmination of eight years of work.

And then afterwards, the panic of I hope that was good.