

00:00:01:07 - 00:00:31:14

Faith:

Hello, everyone. It's Faith and I am so excited for you to hear this new story from the world of Apollyon. If you recall from episode one, Theo talks about Lucas Soto, the first person to contract AVS. What you're about to hear is his story. These episodes are very short, but I hope you find them engaging. New episodes will come out every two weeks, but if you want to hear them much sooner and without ads, you should join Observer's Patreon at the \$5 or \$10 level.

00:00:31:25 - 00:01:06:25

Faith:

On top of getting Patient Zero episodes, you'll be able to hear all of Observer's shows ad free and before everyone else, plus behind-the-scenes content and exclusive interviews. If that sounds great—which I hope it does—visit [Patreon dot com slash Observer Pix](https://www.patreon.com/ObserverPix) or go to [Apollyon dot Observer Pictures dot com](https://www.apollyon.com/ObserverPictures.com) and click become a member. Both links are in the show notes as well as where you can find transcripts. Without further ado, here's Patient Zero.

00:01:06:25 - 00:01:21:29

Narrator:

Observer Pictures Presents Patient Zero This is Episode One, Day One.

00:01:35:06 - 00:01:39:25

Lucas:

This is Dr. Lucas Soto. It is April 3rd on...

00:01:39:27 - 00:01:49:24

Lucas:

No, no, no, no, no, no.

00:01:49:24 - 00:02:20:21

Lucas:

[laughs] You'd think I've never done this before. I should be used to the winds by now, but thankfully the field computers can take a beating. Let's try this again. This is Dr. Lucas Soto. It is April 3rd, 2124 at 2100 local time. Wow. It's getting late. This marks day one of expedition five in the Monteverde Cloud Forest. This is my third time in the lower montane rainforest on the Pacific Slope.

00:02:21:10 - 00:02:44:14

Lucas:

As always, it is beautiful out here. I will never tire of this place. Everyone should be required to go out in the field. At least once. A majority of my colleagues do not understand my desire for fieldwork, but I stand

by my belief that it is still necessary for the science and for the soul. Thankfully, there are enough people with deep pockets who also agree with me.

00:02:45:27 - 00:03:09:10

Lucas:

But if you're not out here with the flora and fauna, how are you getting a full picture of the ecosystem? Of course there are questions that can be and should be answered in the lab, but these questions need to be answered in the field. The only way to properly test forest restoration methods is by getting your hands dirty. Literally! *El que no arriesga no gana. (Nothing ventured, nothing gained.)*

00:03:12:28 - 00:03:30:02

Lucas:

This study will focus on the migration of endemic flora to higher elevations following the introduction of soil reconstructed from natural and lab-created organic materials. The data gathered over the next three weeks will help lay the groundwork for phase three of the restoration project.

00:03:30:02 - 00:03:43:00

Lucas:

My team currently consists of local guide Rodolfo Jimenez and medic Angeline Guzman. Phytologist Dr. Rayna Mitchell should be arriving within the next 12 hours, along with ground bots Marvin and Betty.

00:03:43:26 - 00:04:04:01

Lucas:

I haven't worked with her before—Dr. Mitchell that is. But I've read her work. We should complement each other well. Tomorrow we'll begin our study in the part of the Alpha two sector that was pinged by the UNEP drone. In the meantime, I'm going to finish setting up and get some rest.

00:04:04:01 - 00:04:23:07

Lucas:

That information, like most of this entry, was probably unnecessary for a professional record. Every year I try to do better, but it is inevitable that I will veer off topic. [laughs] Aye, aye, aye.

00:04:28:15 - 00:05:23:07

Narrator:

This episode featured the voices of Manuel Ravelo as Lucas and me, J Cuevas, as narrator. Written, directed and produced by Faith McQuinn. Sound Design and Mix by Joshua Suhy. Casting Assistance by Courtney Holly. Theme Music by Wild Wander provided by Soundstripe Music. For more information, visit Apollyon dot Observer Pictures dot com. If you enjoyed this episode, please leave a review on Podchaser or Apple Podcasts, and, more importantly, tell a friend.