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# Please vote: Should Osteoarthritis Research Focus on “Mice” or “Men”?



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$1 + 4 + 12 + 16$

$-16 = x + 1$

$12 + x =$

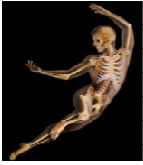
$x =$

$-5 = x + 1$

$x =$

$-53 = x + 6$





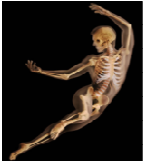
# Great Debate 2015 – Should Osteoarthritis Research Focus on “Mice” or “Men”?

David Hunter  
MBBS, PhD, FRACP  
Florance and Cope Chair of Rheumatology, Professor of Medicine  
University of Sydney and Royal North Shore Hospital  
Consultant Rheumatologist, North Sydney Orthopedic and Sports Medicine

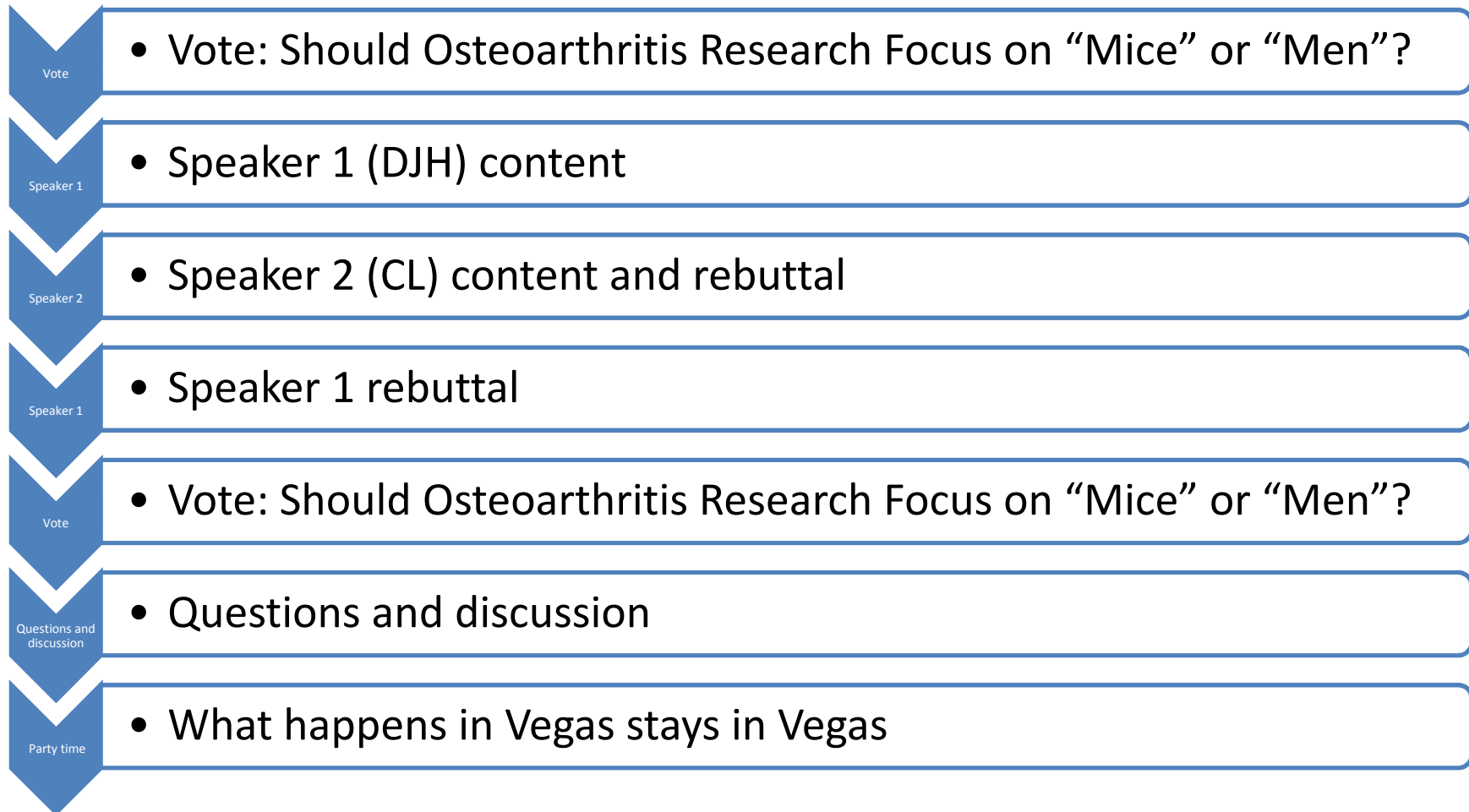
[David.Hunter@sydney.edu.au](mailto:David.Hunter@sydney.edu.au)

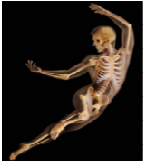
 @ProfDavidHunter





# Format





# Outline



## Definition

- Mice, Men, Research Focus

## Conflicts of Interest

## The cons of animal research and reasons for translational failure

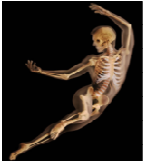
- Humans are different to animals
- Animals do not reliably predict results in humans
- Animal tests may mislead researchers into ignoring potential cures and treatments
- Poor quality and lack of reproducibility

## The best and worst of times

- Challenges of research funding and their allocation
- Failure to translate

## Focus on translational research

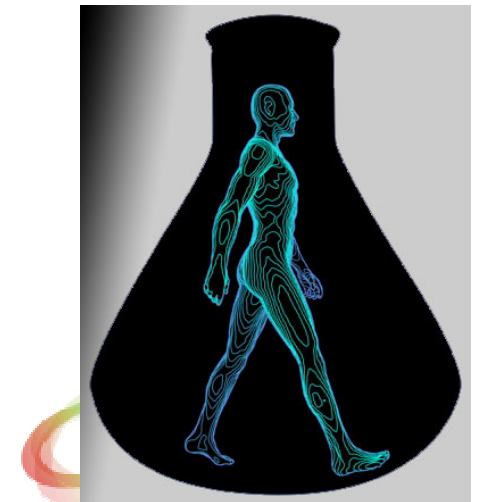
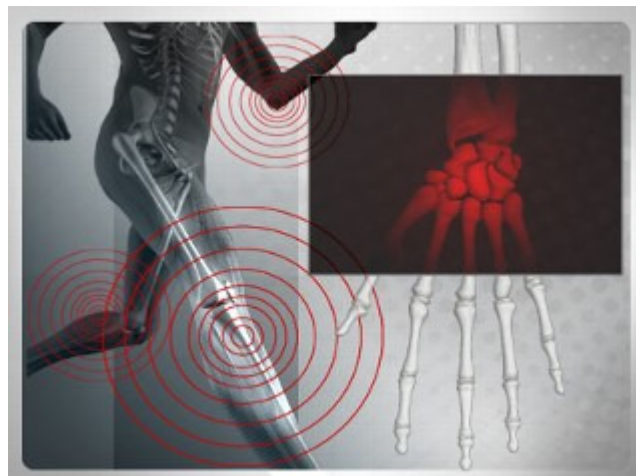
## Rebuttal



# Declaration of interest

I declare that in the past three years I have:

- received royalties from: DJO for a patellofemoral brace patent
- Consulted for Flexion, Nestle
- Supported by an NHMRC Health Practitioner Fellowship.



# Definition

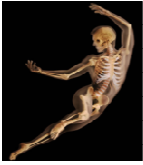
is research



**If you are neutral  
in situations of  
injustice, you have  
chosen the side of  
the oppressor.**

Desmond Tutu





# Animal Testing Cons

- **Many Animals Not Protected**-95% of animals used in experiments are not protected by Animal Welfare Act
- **Some Tests Have No Purpose in the End**-A 2009 study found serious flaws in the majority of publicly funded US and UK animal studies.
- **There are other methods than using animals available**
- **Drugs that pass animal tests are not necessarily safe**
  - Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), "Vioxx Tragedy Spotlights Failure of Animal Research," pcrm.org, Mar. 2005



<https://blog.udemy.com/animal-testing-cons/>





## **Animal tests may mislead researchers into ignoring potential cures and treatments.**

- Aspirin, is dangerous for some animal species, and Fk-506 (tacrolimus), used to lower the risk of organ transplant rejection, was "almost shelved" because of animal test results.

## **Animal tests do not reliably predict results in human beings**

"The low predictivity of animal experiments in research areas allowing direct comparisons of mouse versus human data puts strong doubt on the usefulness of animal data as key technology to predict human safety." 2013 (*Archives of Toxicology*)

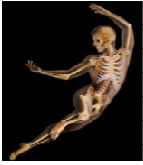




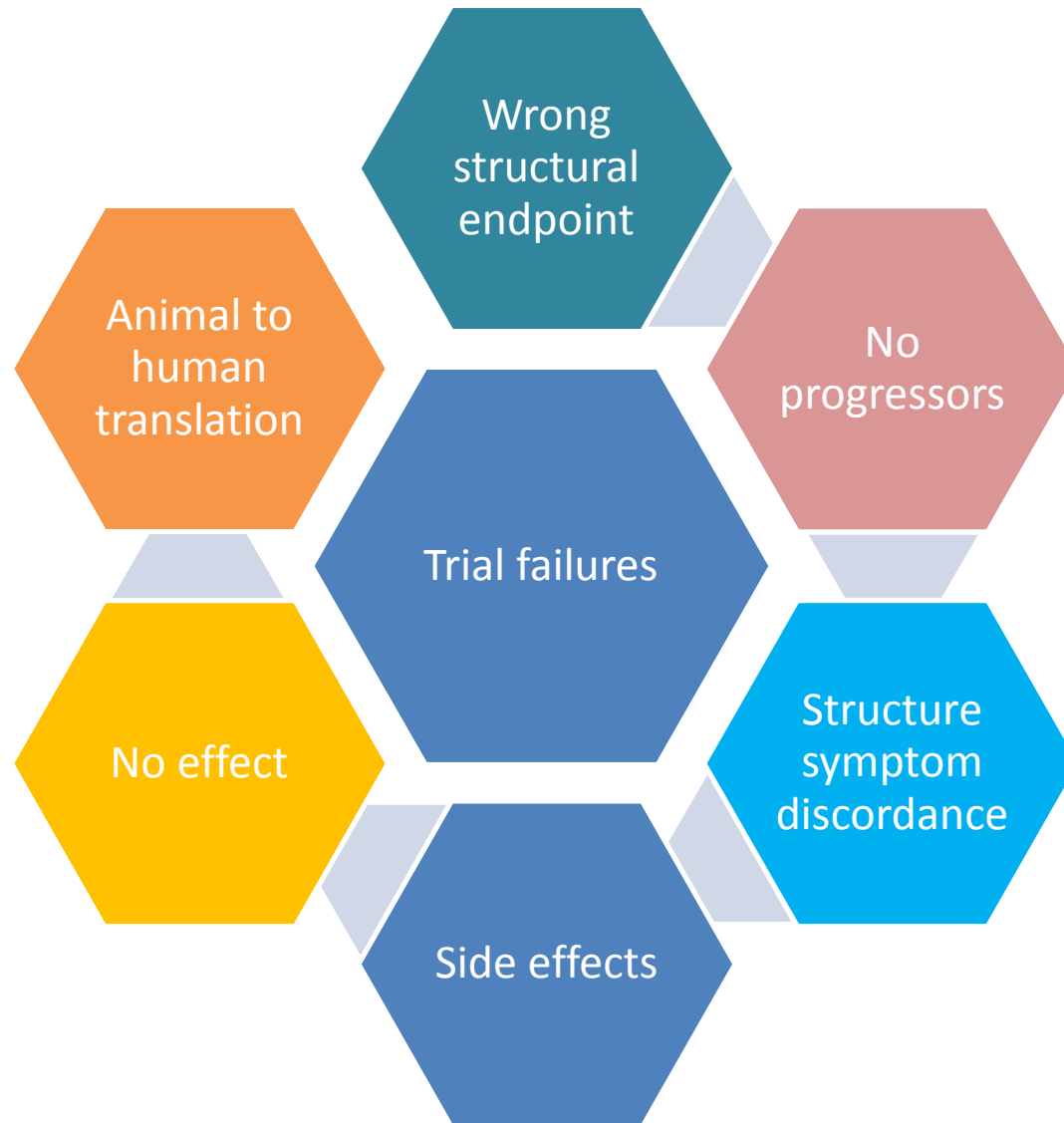
Risedronate  
Cindunostat  
BMP-7  
MMP-Inhibitors  
Doxycycline  
Calcitonin  
Avocado-soybean-unsaponifiable  
Diacerein  
Sodium-hyaluronan  
Glucosamine-sulfate

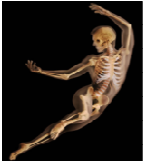
Hunter DJ. 2011. Pharmacologic therapy for osteoarthritis—the era of disease modification. *Nat. Rev. Rheumatol.* 7: 13–22.

Kraus VB, et al. 2012. Effects of intraarticular IL1-Ra for acute anterior cruciate ligament knee injury: a randomized controlled pilot trial (NCT00332254). *Osteoarthr. Cartil. OARS Osteoarthr. Res. Soc.* 20: 271–278.



# Reasons for trial failures



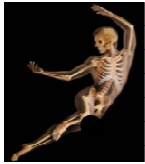


# Reasons for failure

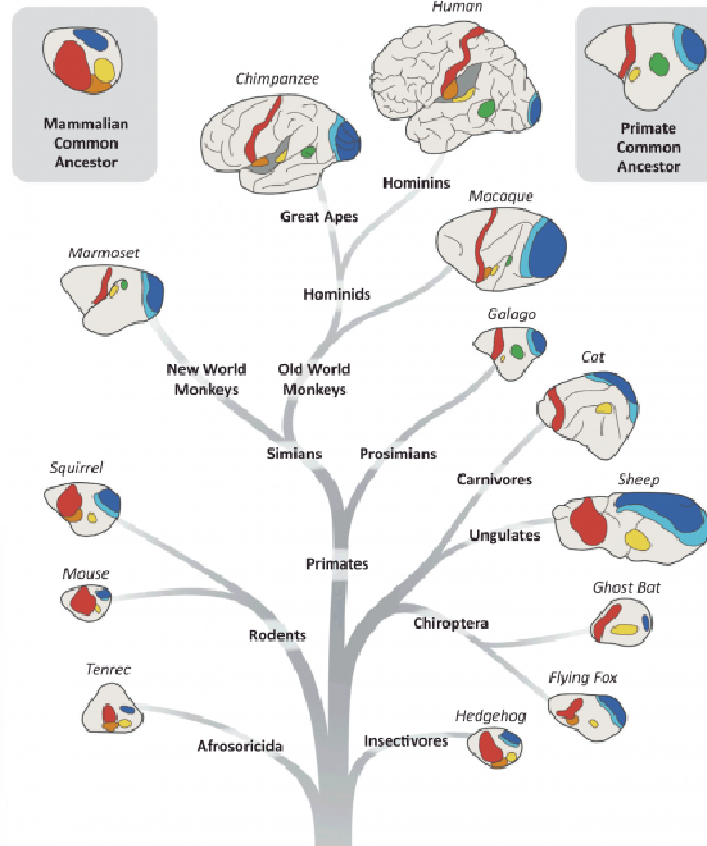
- Most animal models of OA induce disease via mechanical disruption of joint biomechanics in young individuals rather than the spontaneous development of age-associated disease.
- Studies in mice suggest that PTOA has a distinct molecular pathophysiology compared with that of spontaneous OA.

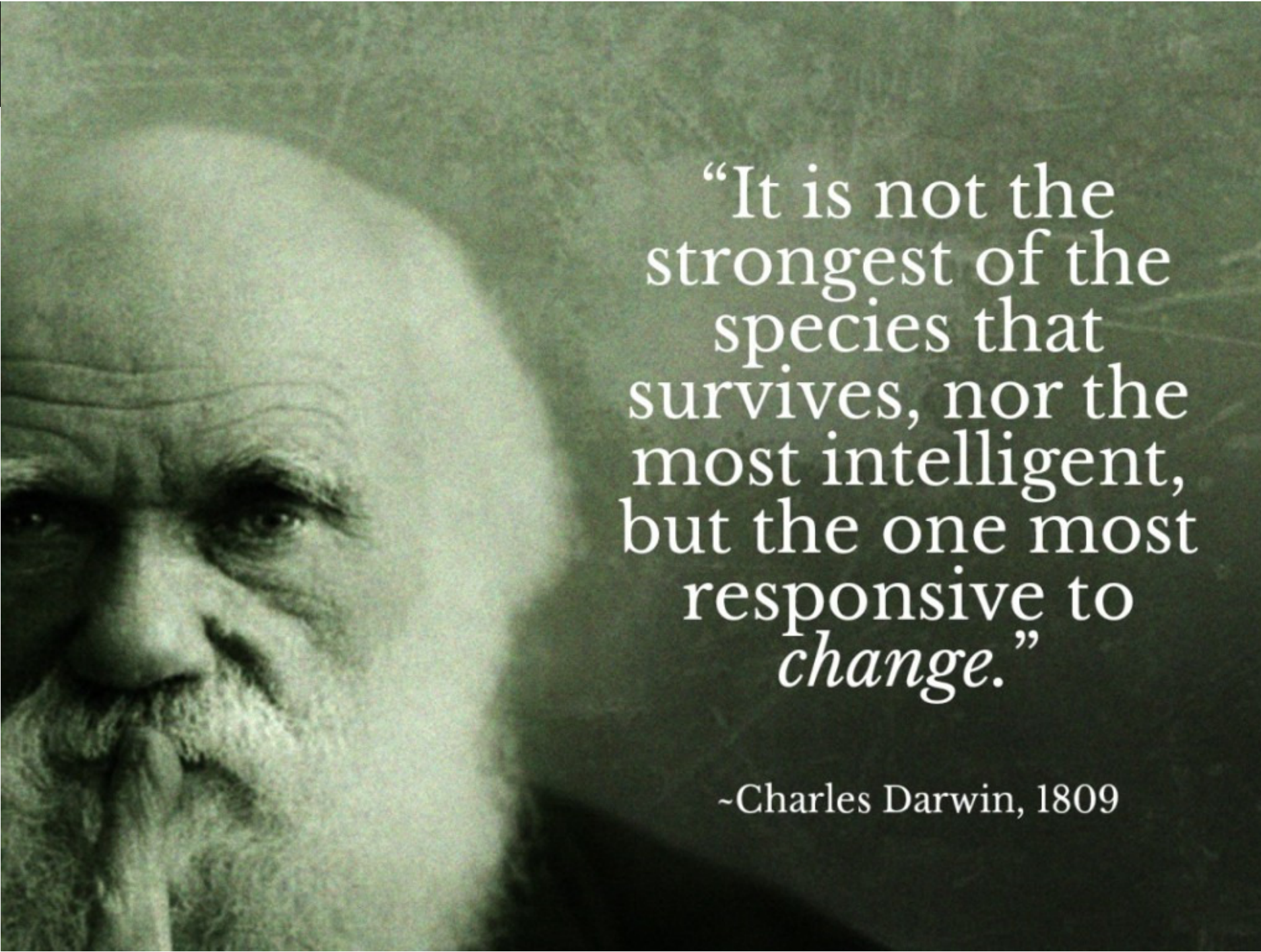


[Nat Rev Rheumatol](#). 2013 Aug;9(8):485-97.  
Post-traumatic osteoarthritis: from mouse models to clinical trials. [Little CB](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Hunter DJ](#).



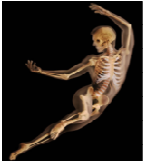
80 to 85 million years ago, we took a different evolutionary path





“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to *change*.”

~Charles Darwin, 1809

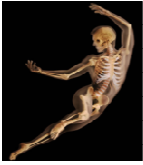


# quadruped vs biped

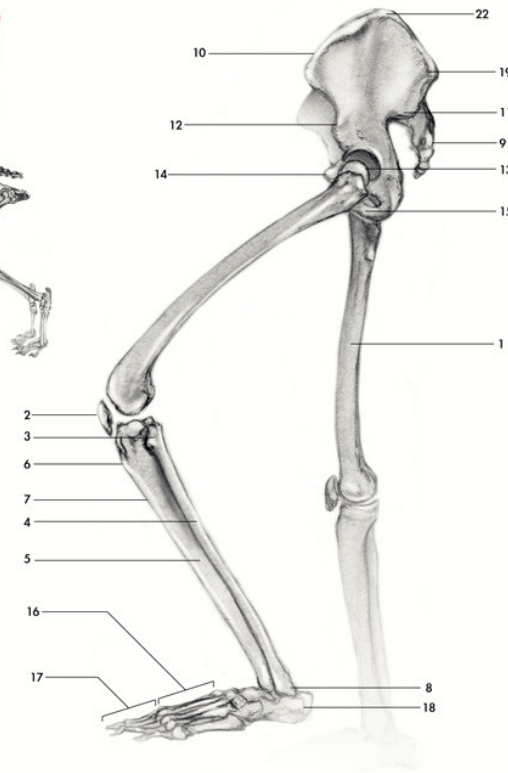
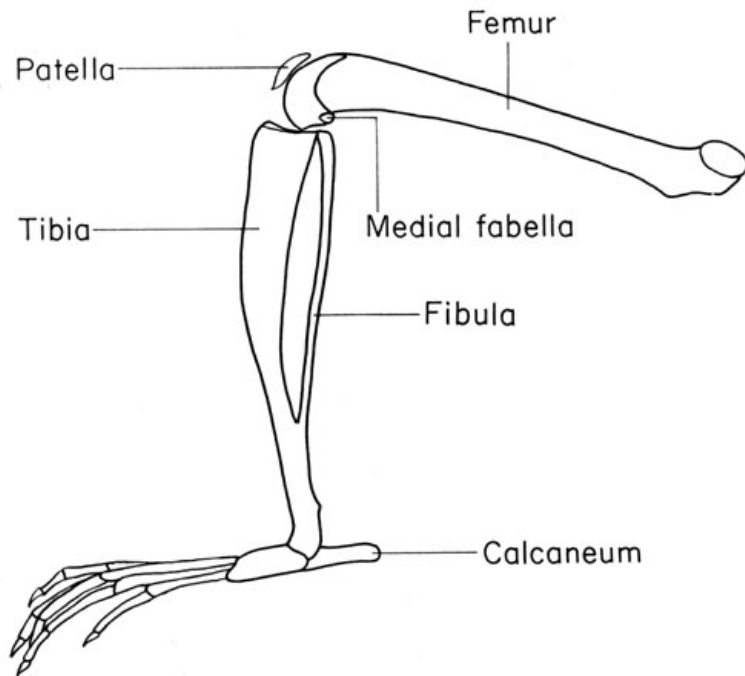


"we are not 70 kg rats"



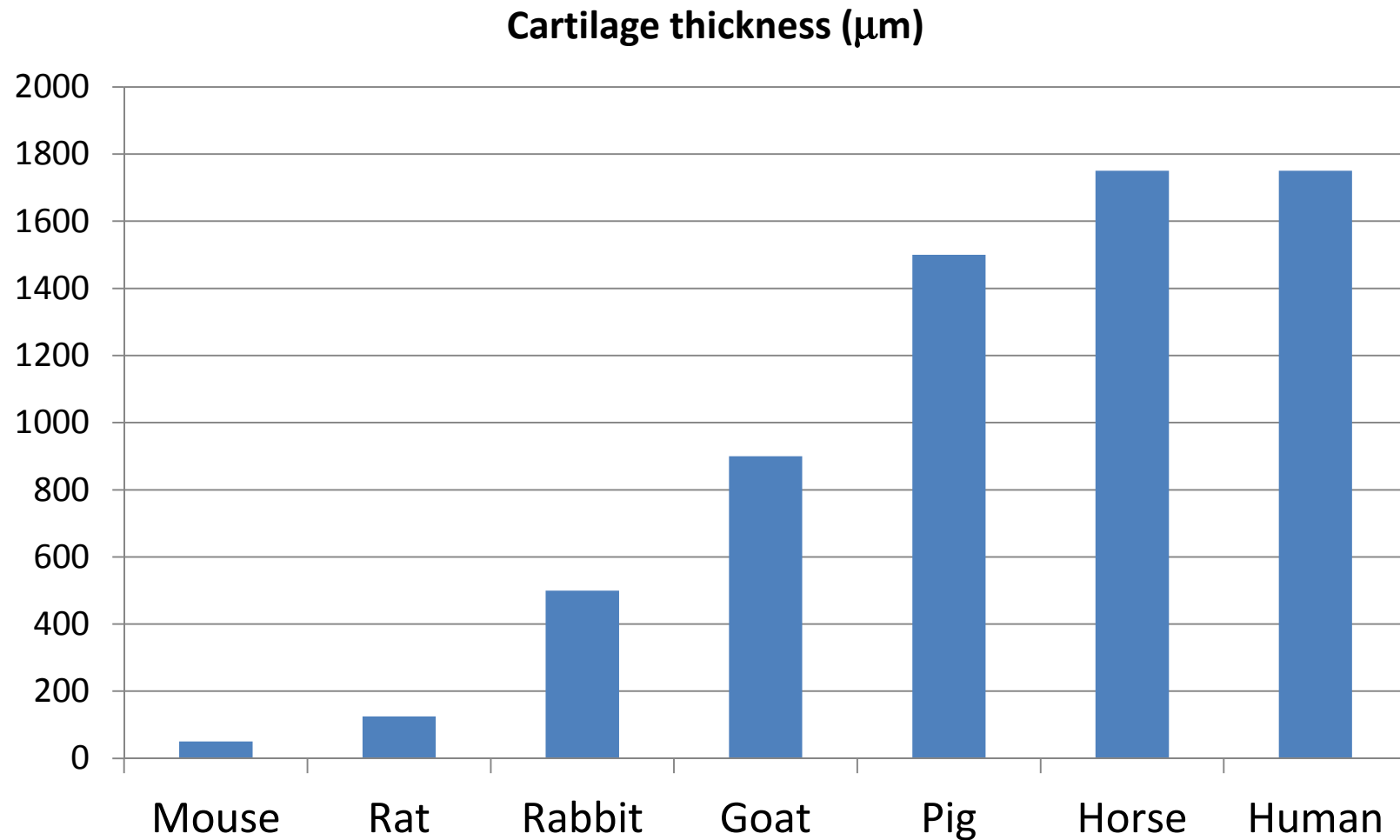


# Joint Anatomy





# Cartilage thickness



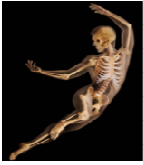
A Rabbit Model Demonstrates the Influence of Cartilage Thickness on Intra-Articular Drug Delivery and Retention Within Cartilage. Bajpayee AG, et al. JOR (in press)



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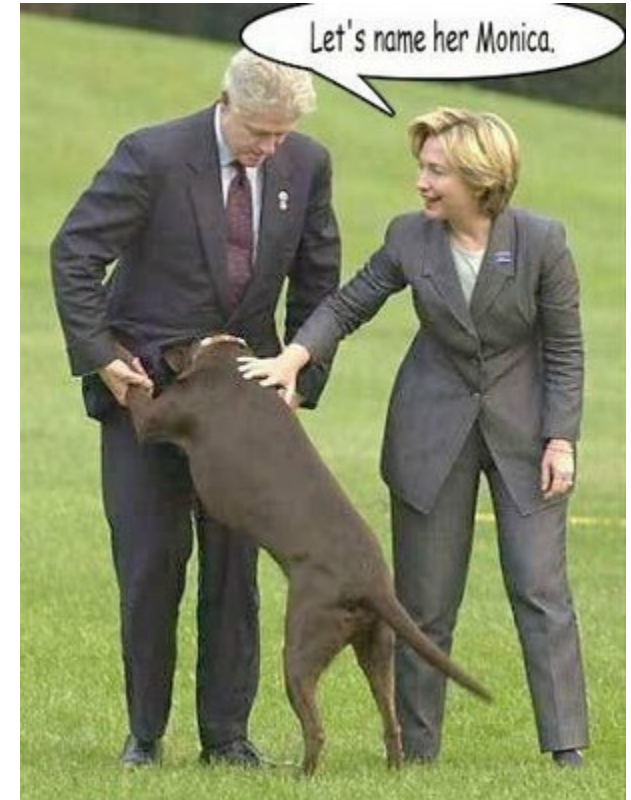






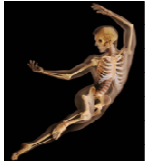
# Why not mice?

- Small animals have commonly been used in OA research due to their lower costs and ease of manipulation relative to larger species; more recently, the development of transgenic mouse models have broadened their utility.
- Data from larger animal models are clinically more relevant and generally preferred by the FDA.

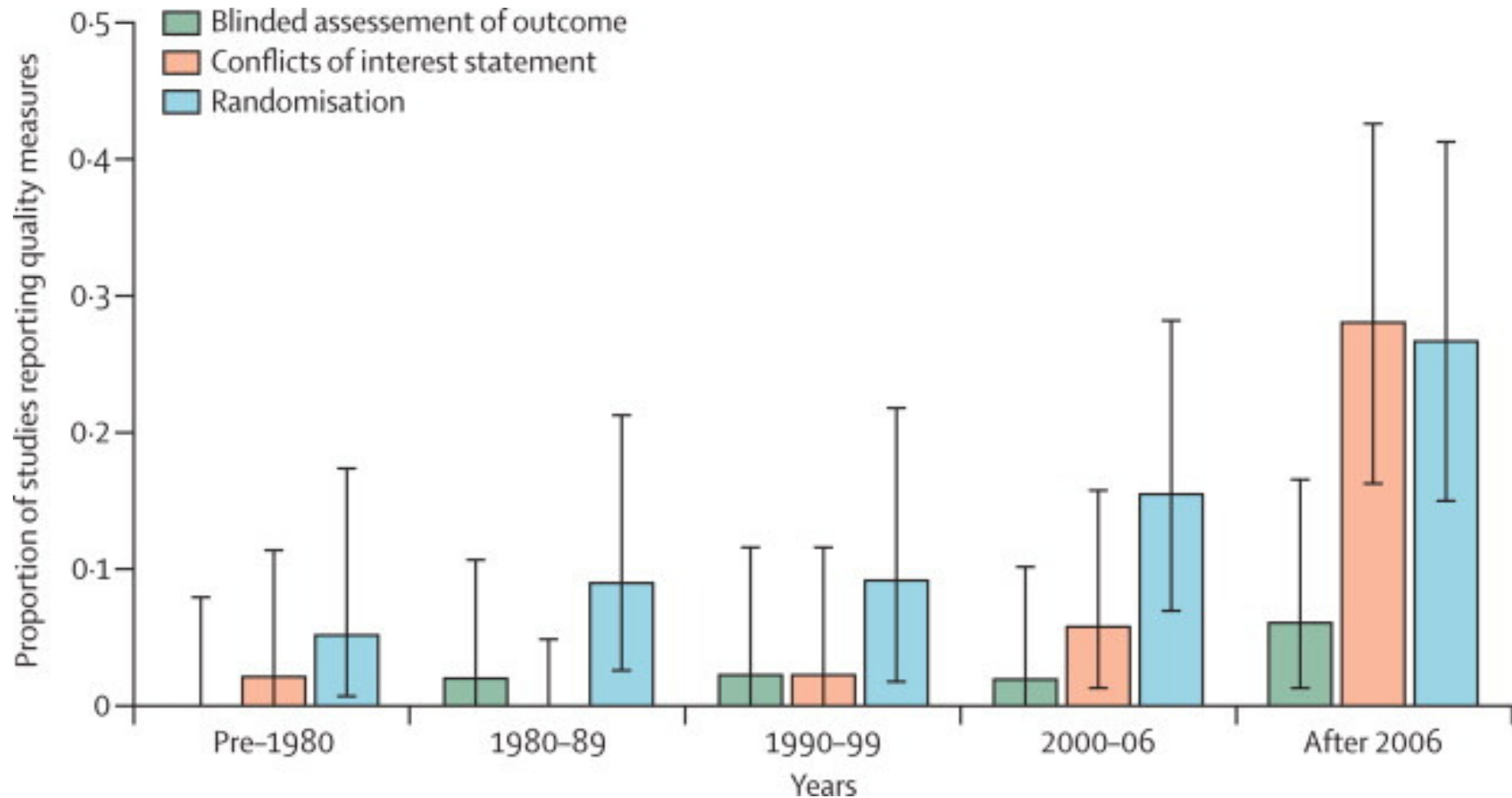


**A Rabbit Model Demonstrates the Influence of Cartilage Thickness on Intra-Articular Drug Delivery and Retention Within Cartilage. Bajpayee AG, et al. JOR (in press)**





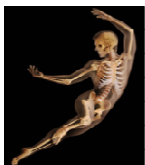
# Quality of reported research is woeful



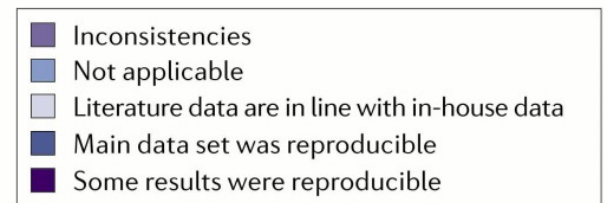
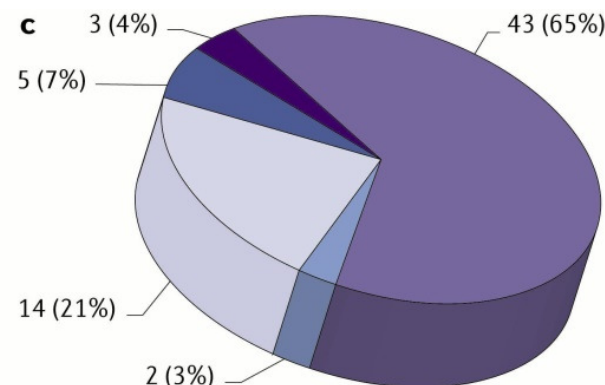
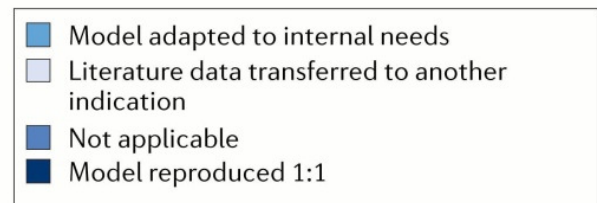
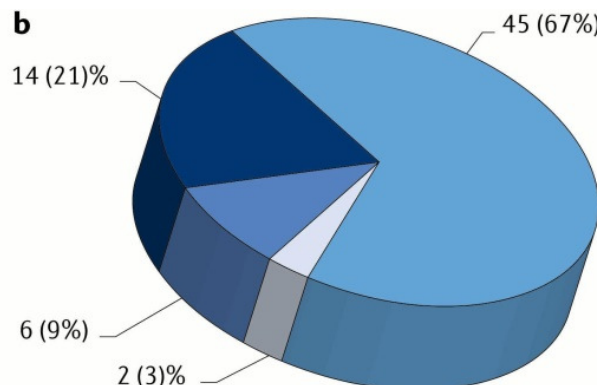
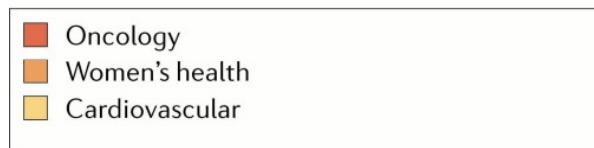
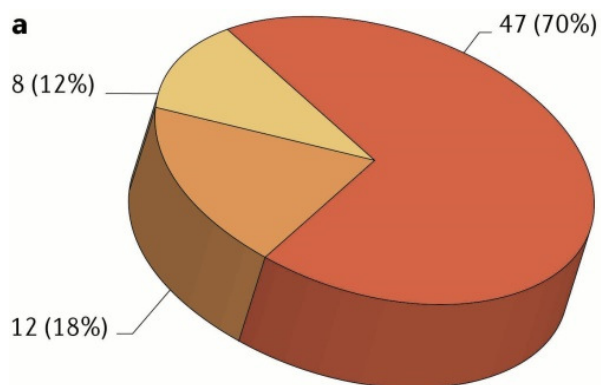
Trends in three methodological quality indicators for reports of in-vivo studies

Ioannidis et al. Increasing value and reducing waste... The Lancet, Volume 383, Issue 9912, 2014, 166 - 175





# Lack of reproducibility



**d**

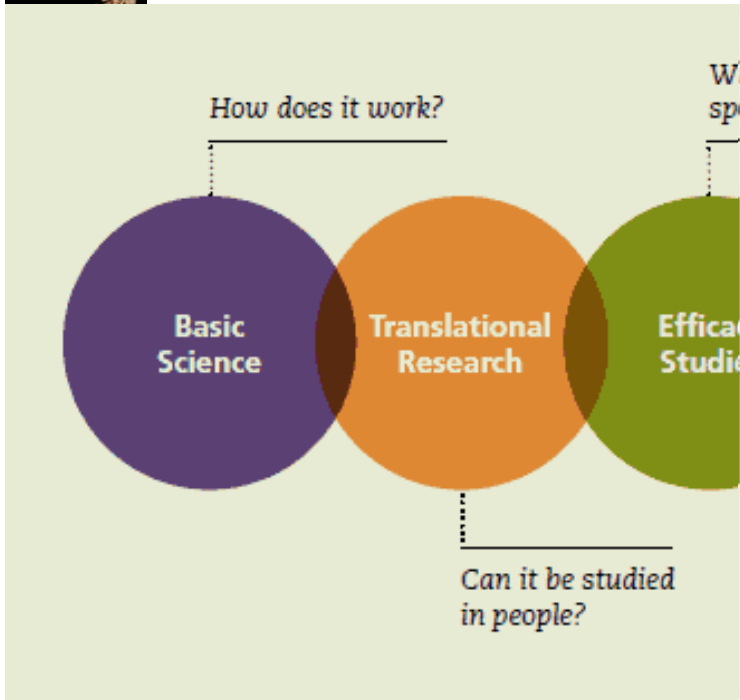
	Model reproduced 1:1	Model adapted to internal needs (cell line, assays)	Literature data transferred to another indication	Not applicable
In-house data in line with published results	1 (7%)	12 (86%)	0	1 (7%)
Inconsistencies that led to project termination	11 (26%)	26 (60%)	2 (5%)	4 (9%)

Nature Reviews | Drug Discovery



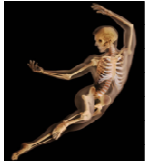
Nature Reviews Drug Discovery 10, 712  
(September 2011)





*"What do you mean 'Don't expect miracles'?  
why shouldn't I expect miracles?"*





# IDEA



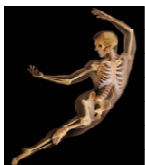
8

Bright  
Ideas.



Don't just see problems—  
Solve problems.  
What's your **Bright Idea?**





**IT WAS THE BEST  
OF TIMES, IT WAS  
THE WORST OF  
TIMES.**



**Charles Dickens**  
English writer

1812 - 1870

*QuoteHD.com*



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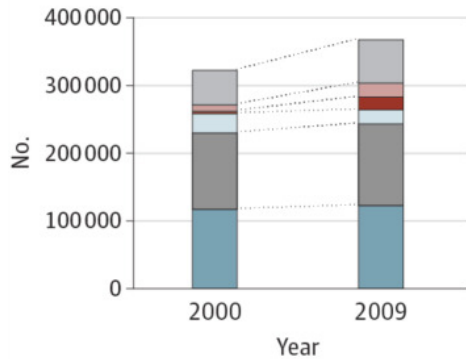
**JointPain**  
.org.au



From: **The Anatomy of Medical Research: US and International Comparisons**

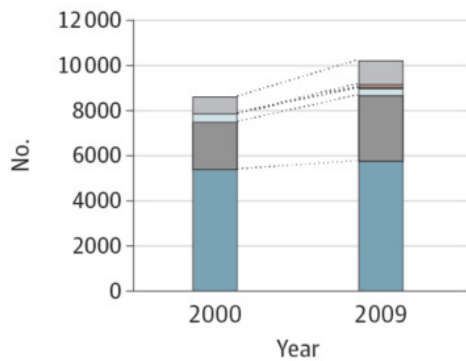
JAMA. 2015;313(2):174-189. doi:10.1001/iama.2014.15939

**A** No. of medical research articles



	No. of Medical Research Articles		Annual Growth Rate, % <sup>a</sup>
	2000	2009	2000-2009
Other <sup>b</sup>	49946	63483	2.7
Other Asia <sup>c</sup>	10029	20790	8.4
China	3937	18399	18.7
Japan	26755	21477	-2.4
European Union <sup>d</sup>	114970	120421	0.5
United States	116156	122659	0.6
<b>Overall</b>	<b>321795</b>	<b>367229</b>	<b>1.5</b>

**B** No. of highly cited medical research articles



	No. of Highly Cited Medical Research Articles		Citation Index of Highly Cited Articles		Compound Annual Growth Rate (Citation Index), % <sup>a</sup>
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000-2009
Other <sup>b</sup>	763	1034	0.57	0.59	0.4
Other Asia <sup>c</sup>	20	113	0.1	0.22	8.6
China	16	82	0.22	0.22	0.3
Japan	345	294	0.5	0.45	-1.0
European Union <sup>d</sup>	2079	2936	0.68	0.86	2.5
United States	5402	5729	1.67	1.63	-0.2
<b>Overall</b>	<b>8626</b>	<b>10189</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>

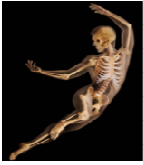
Figure Legend: Medical Research Articles and Citations by Selected Countries/Regions, 2000-2010 NA indicates not available



# Delayed translation

- Today, it takes a minimum of 6.3 years for evidence to reach reviews, papers and textbooks.
- On average it *then* takes an additional 9.3 years to implement evidence from reviews, papers and textbooks into clinical practice.
- But to expect to do research ‘just because’ with no questions asked, is unacceptable in a climate where competition for funding is fierce.





# Share the love proportionately

- Since the mid 1990s industry has invested 14% to 21% of their revenue R&D.
- In 2004 spending on biomedical research was 5.6% of the amount spent on health care services and products.
- In contrast, US spending on research on best practices, effectiveness, quality, cost, and outcomes was only 0.2% of spending on physicians and hospitals and 0.1% of spending overall.

Moses H III, Dorsey R, Matheson DHM, Thier SO. Financial anatomy of biomedical research. *JAMA*. 2005;294(11):1333-1342.

Editorial: reforming health care: this is going to hurt. *Economist*. 2009; 27:13.



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UNHATE



President of the USA

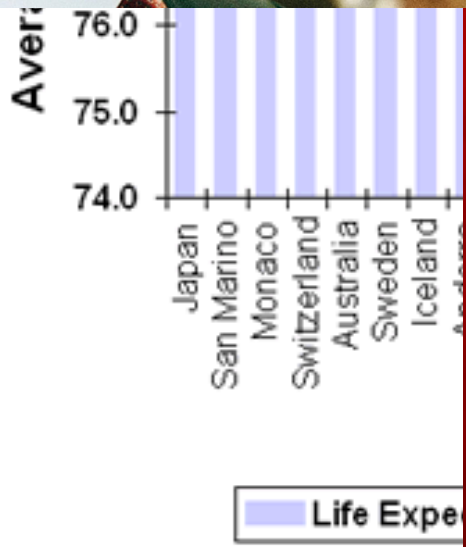
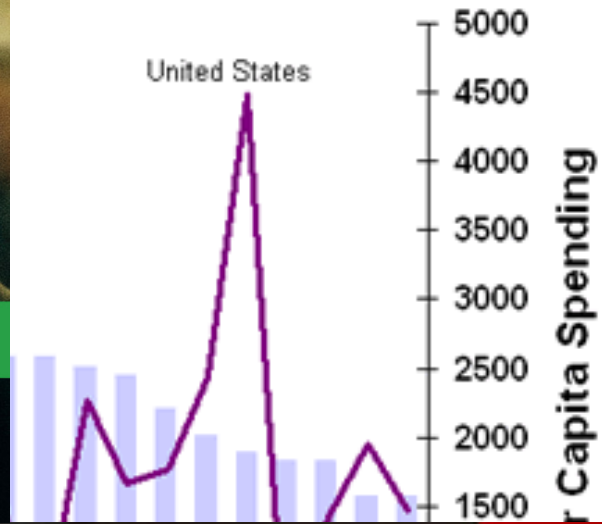
President of Venezuela

UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON.

Supports the Unhate Foundation  
unhatefoundation.org

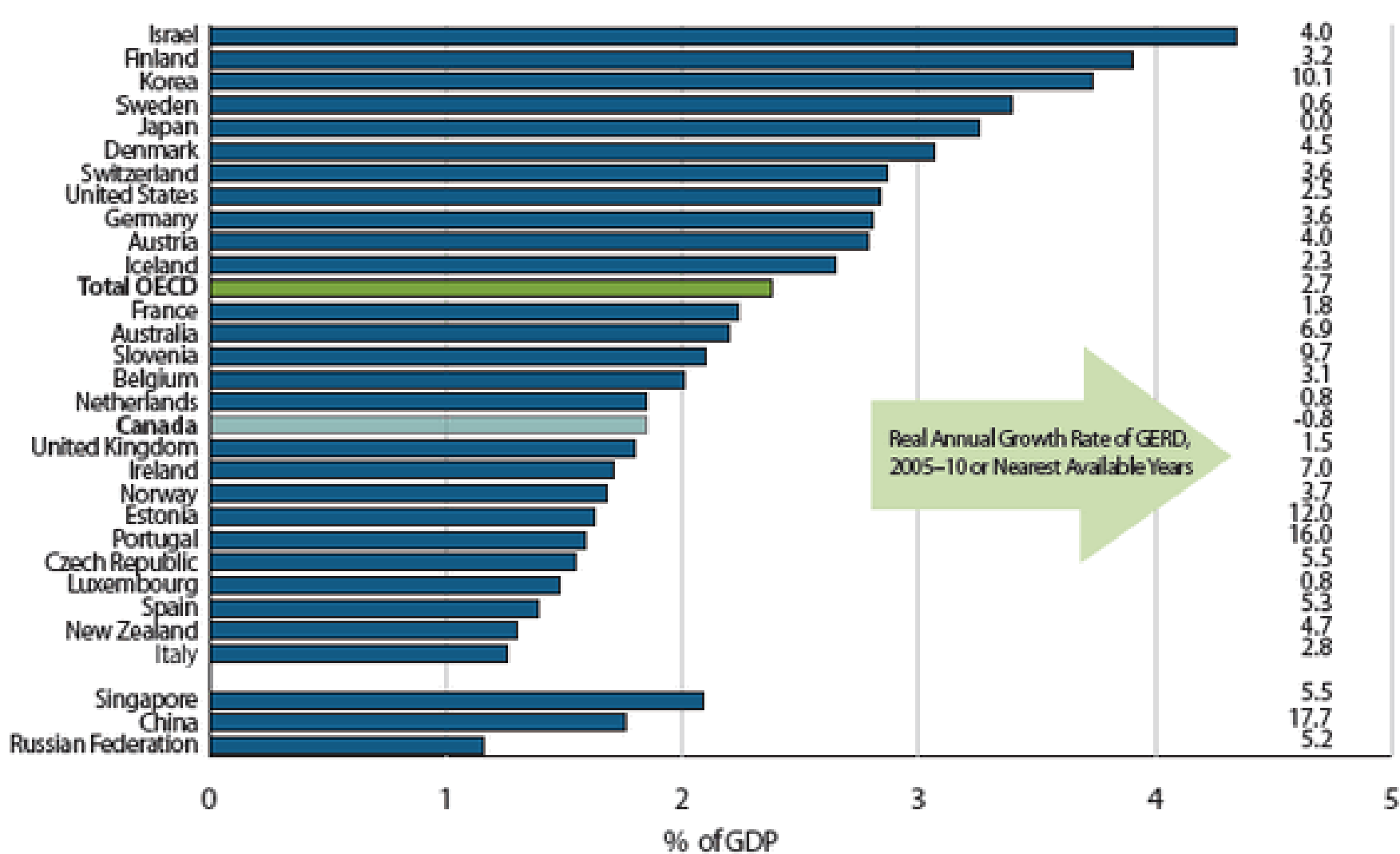
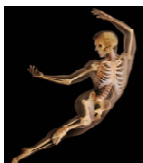


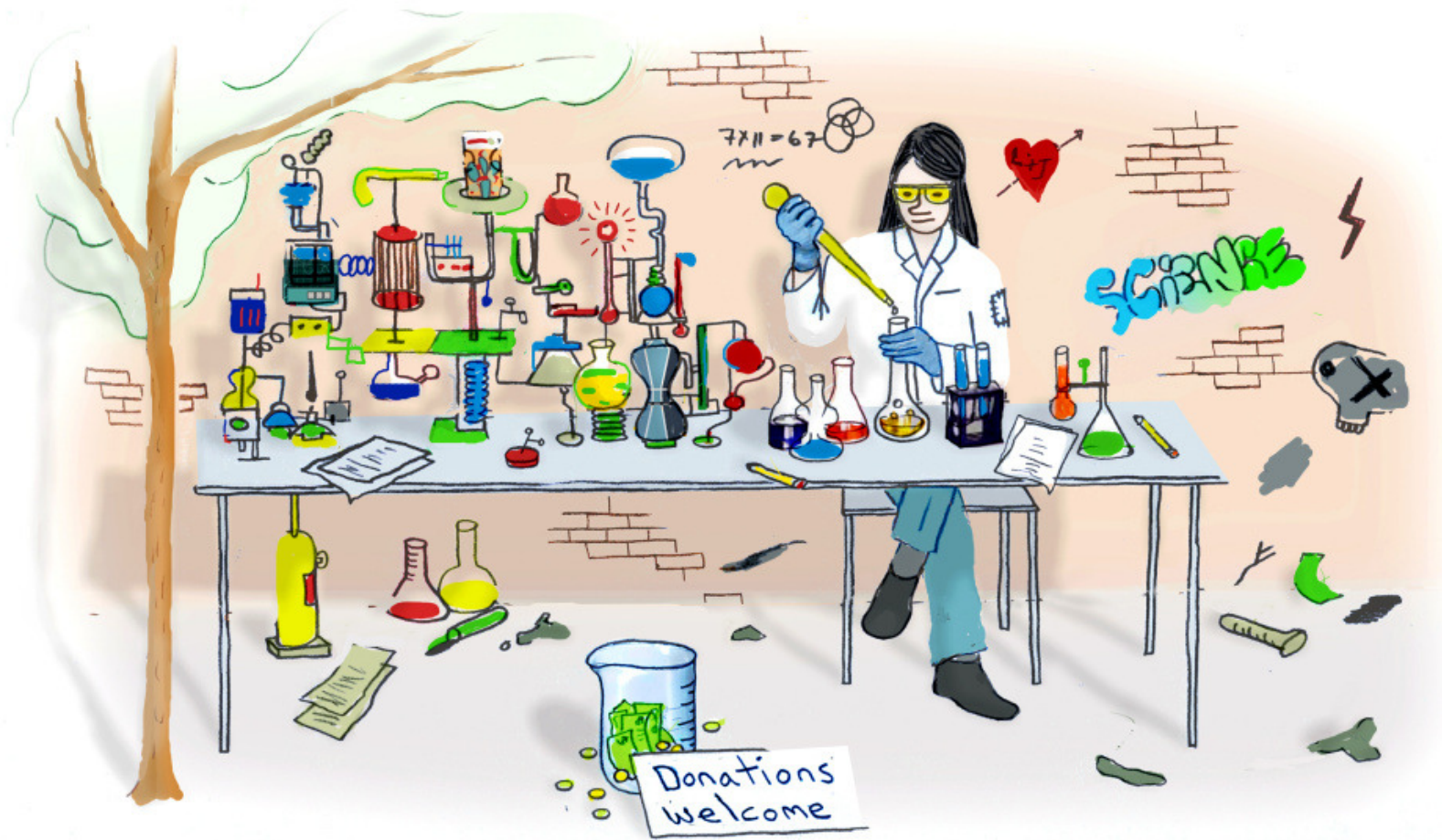
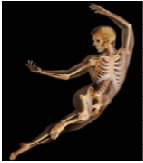
Life

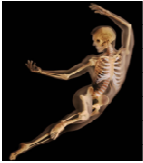


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- <http://uca>

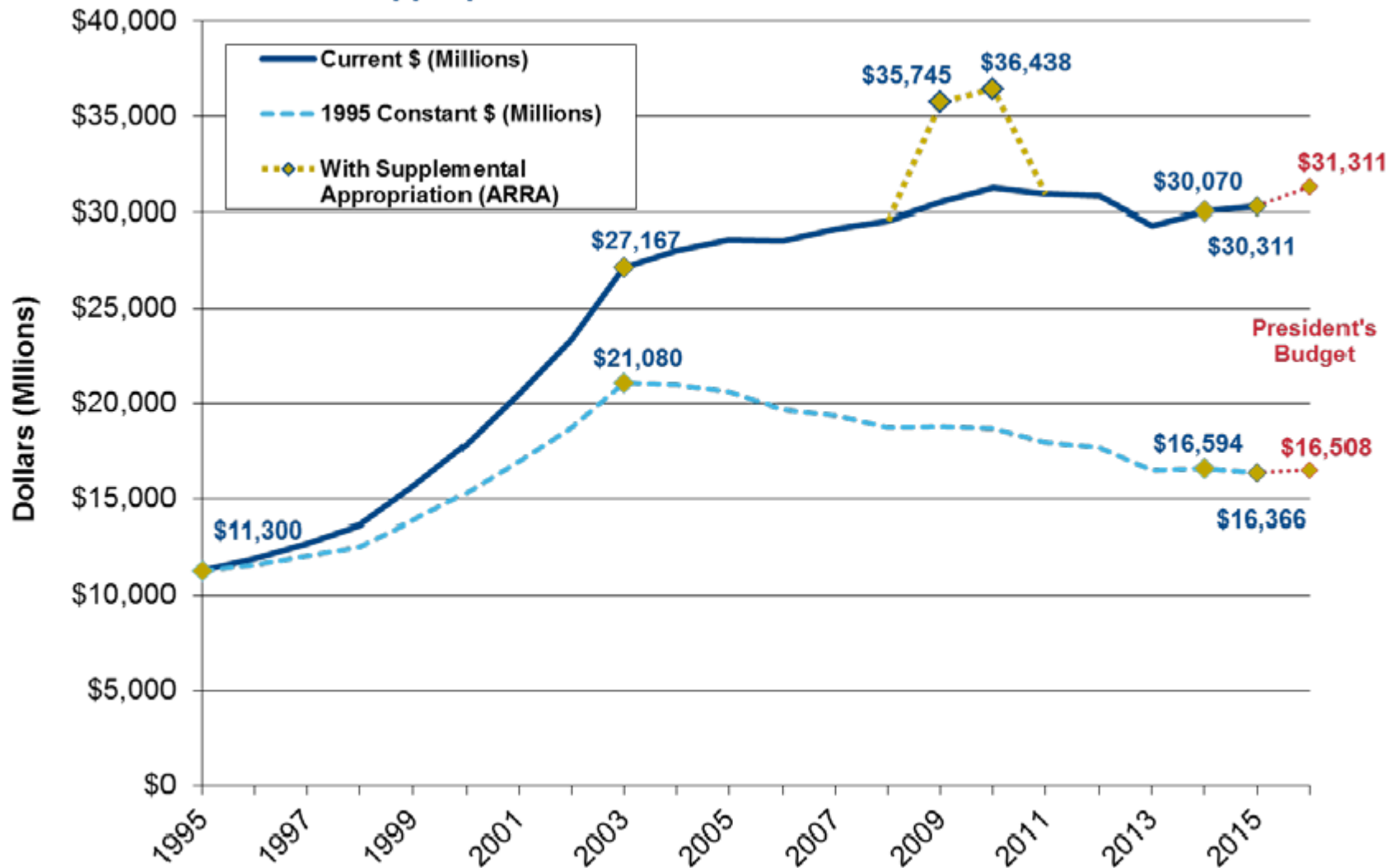






# Funding for NIH

## NIH Appropriations in Current and Constant Dollars



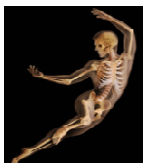
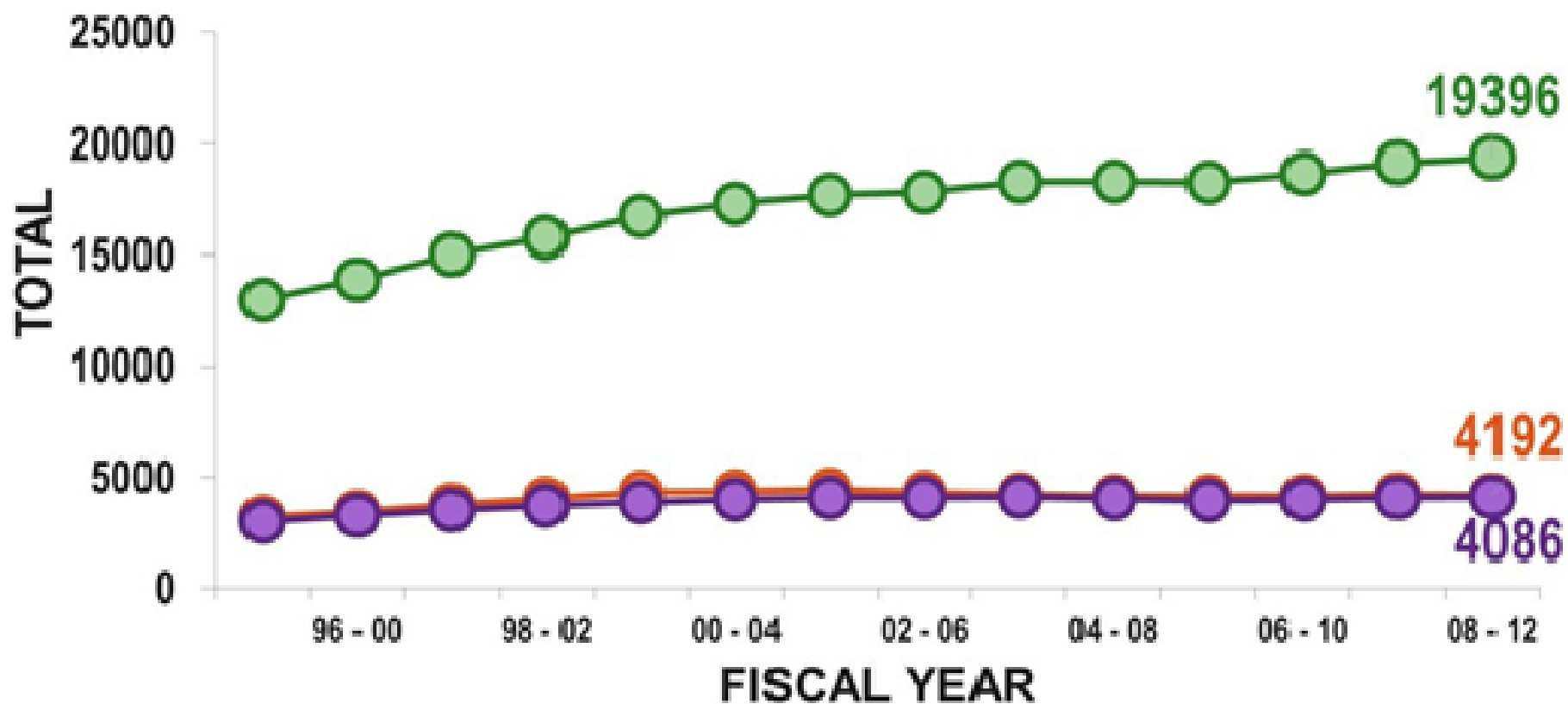
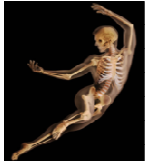
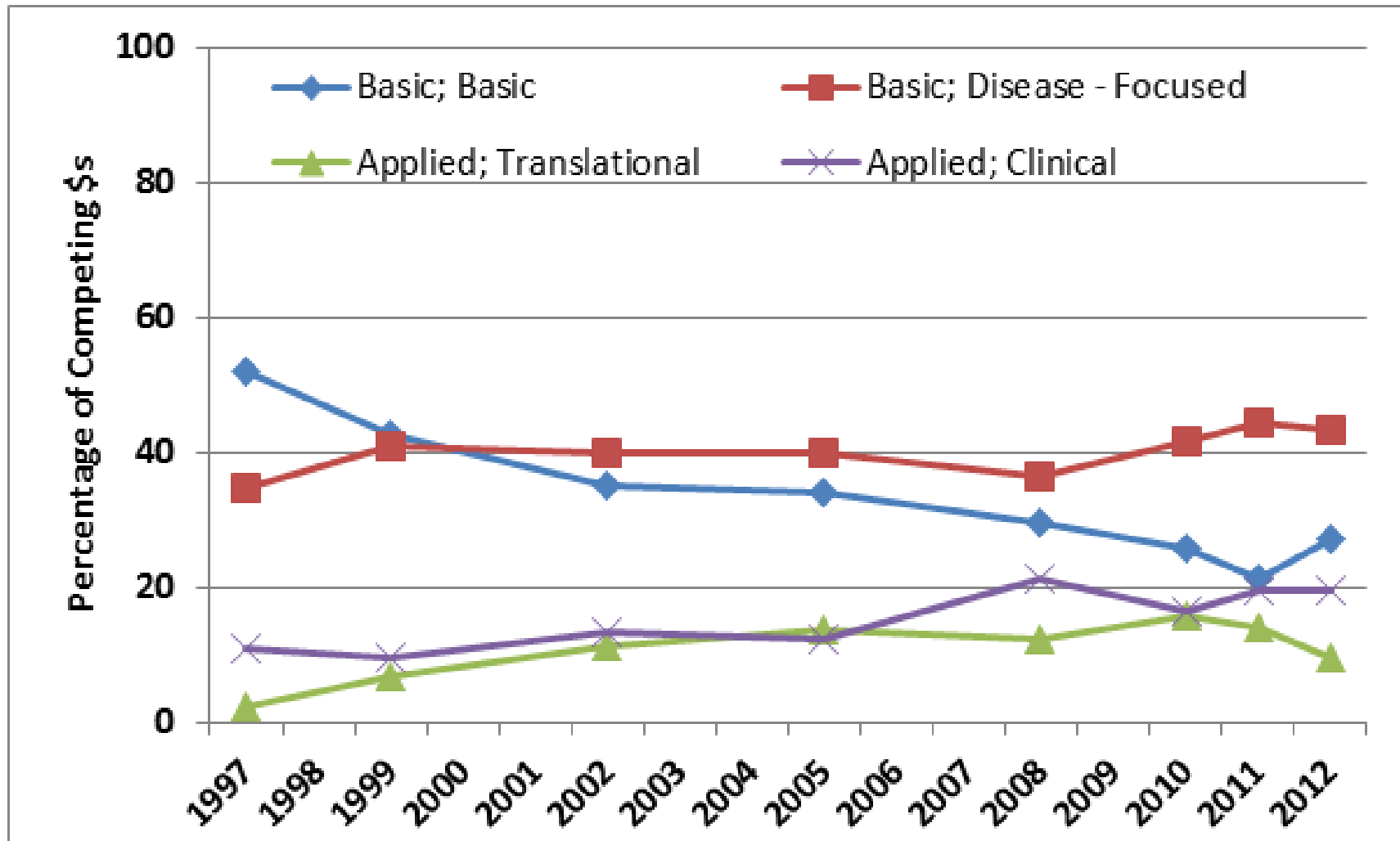


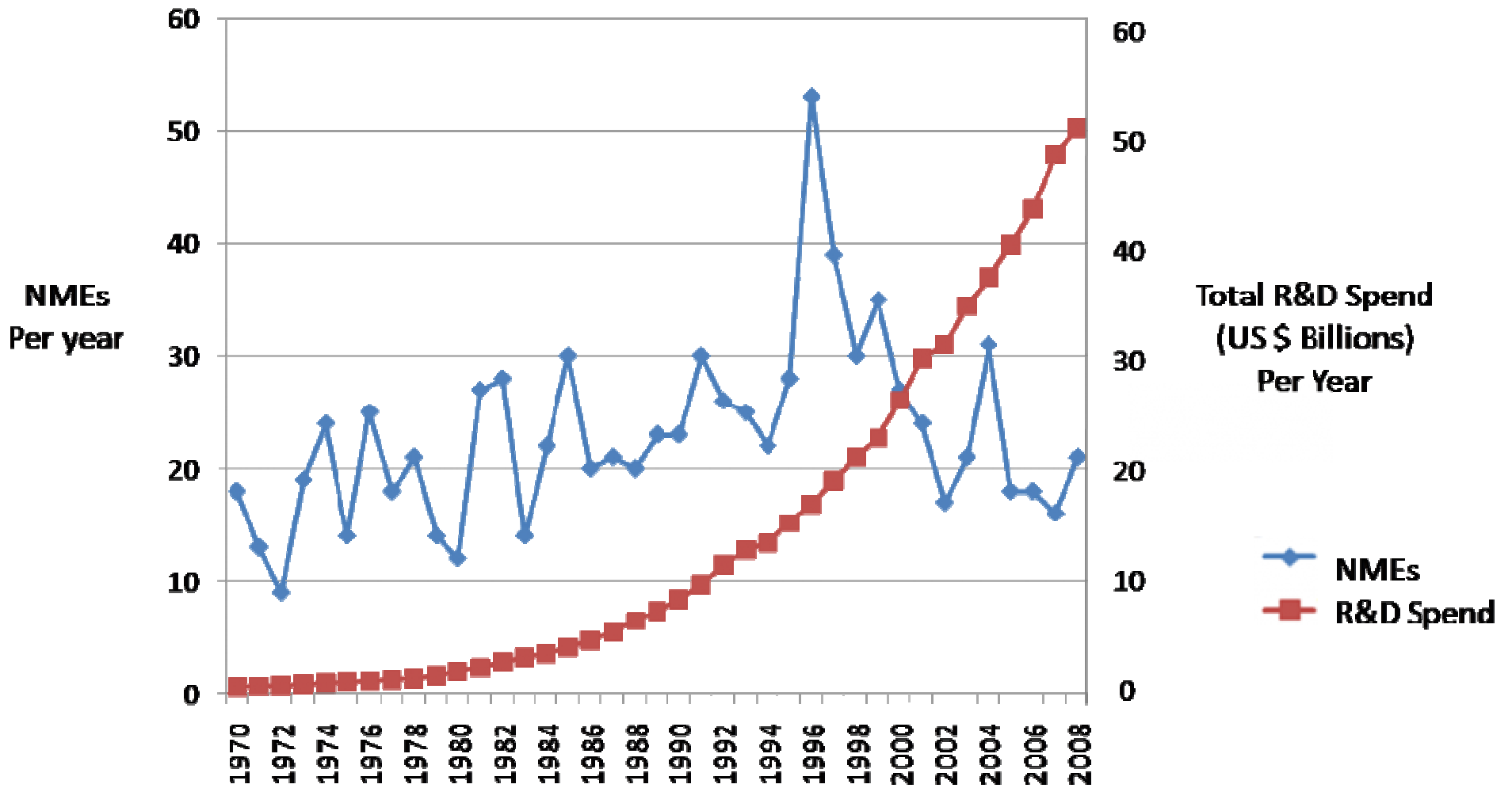
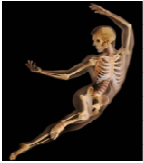
Figure 3.3. Individual NIH Research Project Grant Awardees, PhD, MD, and MD/PhD Degree (FY1995-2012)





# Disproportionate funding to basic science research









From: **The Anatomy of Medical Research: US and International Comparisons**  
JAMA. 2015;313(2):174-189. doi:10.1001/jama.2014.15939

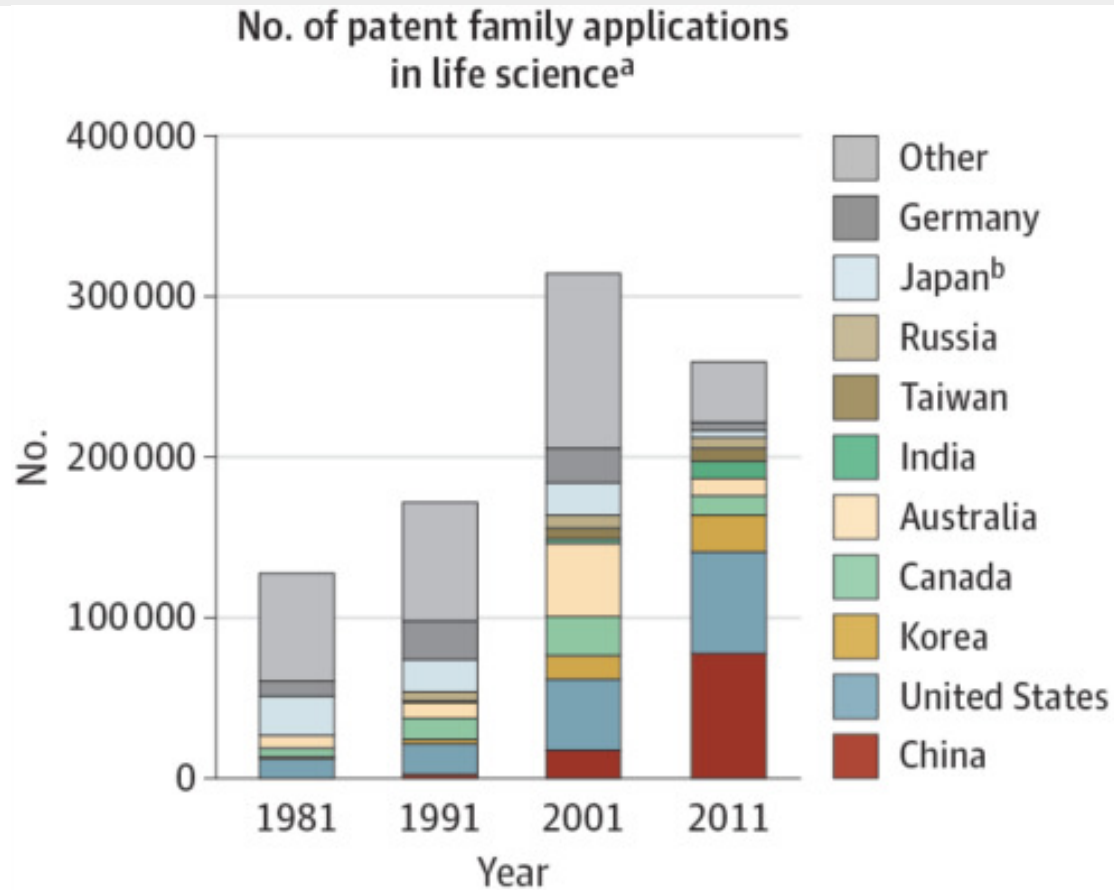
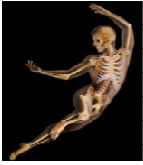
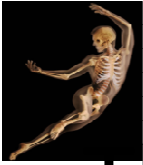


Figure Legend: Global Life Science Patent Applications by Country of Origin, 1981-2011



# Movements in the right direction

- US and Europe have invested heavily in translational research. In the US, the NIH have invested \$480 million in its Clinical and Translation Science Awards, and another \$500 million in a National Centres for Advancing Translational Sciences.
- In the UK they have recently invested 900 million pounds setting up a system similar to the US.



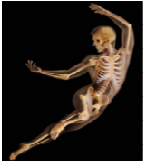
# The way forward-can OARSI play a role?

- There will never be enough funding and it is a matter of prioritizing.
- For translational research to be fully effective, we need more than funding, we need cultural change.
  1. Removing silos
  2. Developing new ways to evaluate translational researchers and institutions
  3. Rethinking the relationship between academia and industry.
  4. Developing new training programs for budding translational researchers
  5. More dollars are spent in meeting research regulations while direct programmatic dollars are declining.

[Nat Med.](#) 2011 Dec 6;17(12):1567-9.

**Improving the efficacy of translational medicine by optimally integrating health care, academia and industry.** [Bornstein SR](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Licinio J.](#)

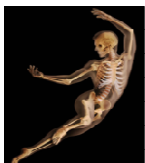




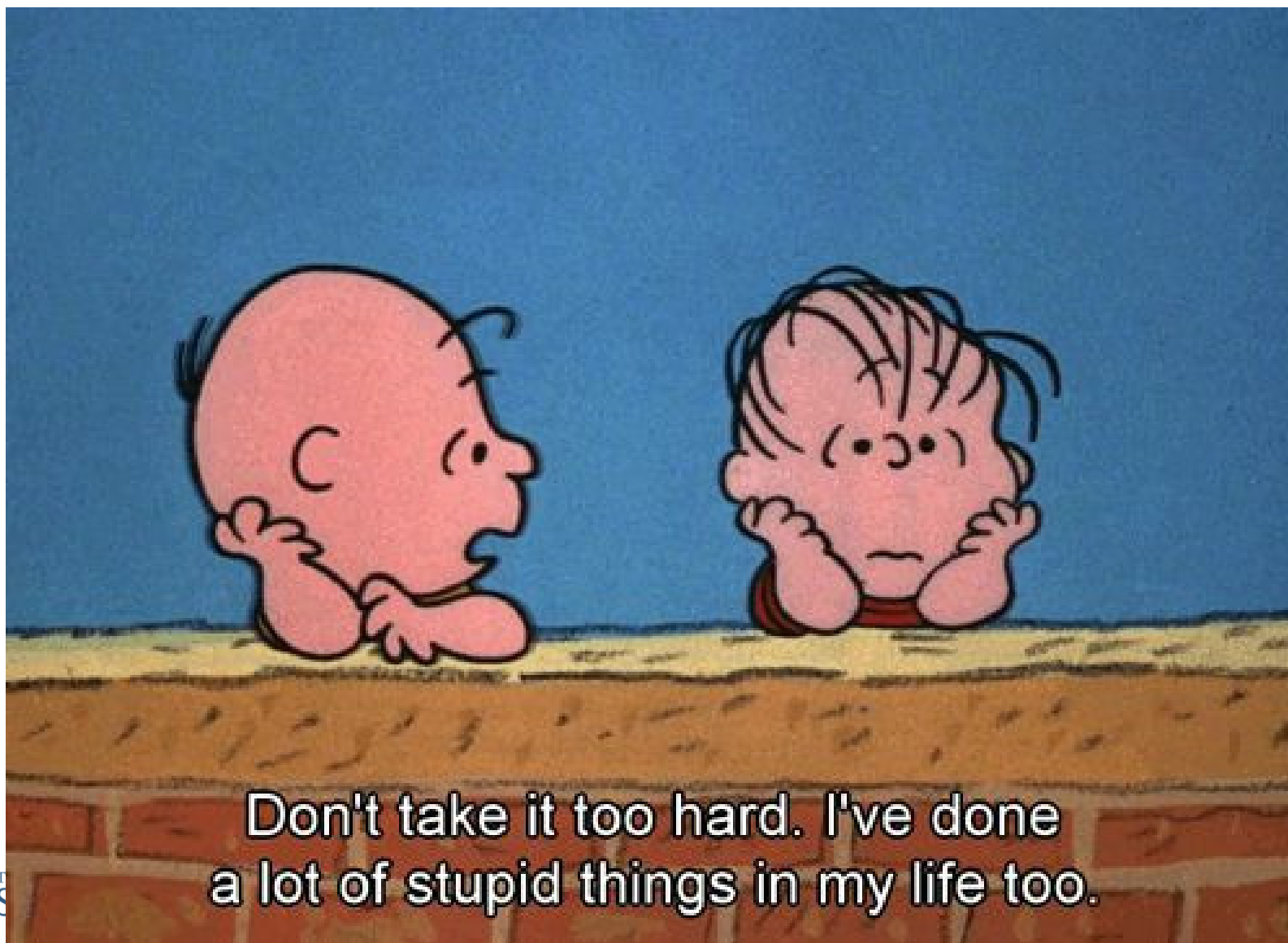
# Summary

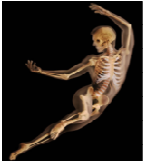
- I am not suggesting don't fund mice research but make it relevant and improve its quality.
- Disproportionate support to mouse research.
- Trial failures and translation will not be improved by more mouse research.
- More focus towards the clinical impact of our research and its translation.





# Rebuttal



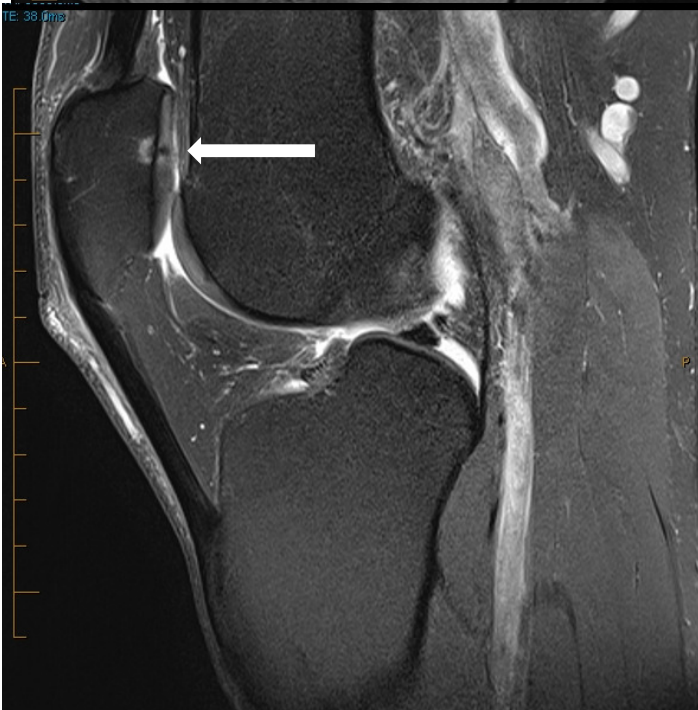
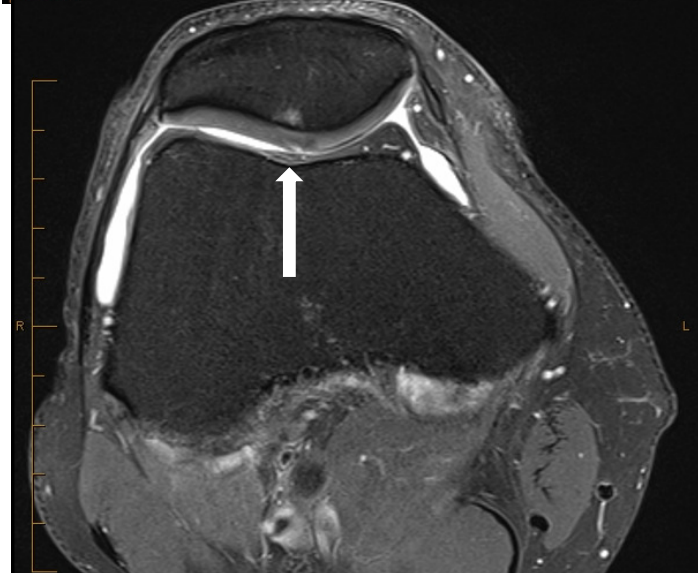


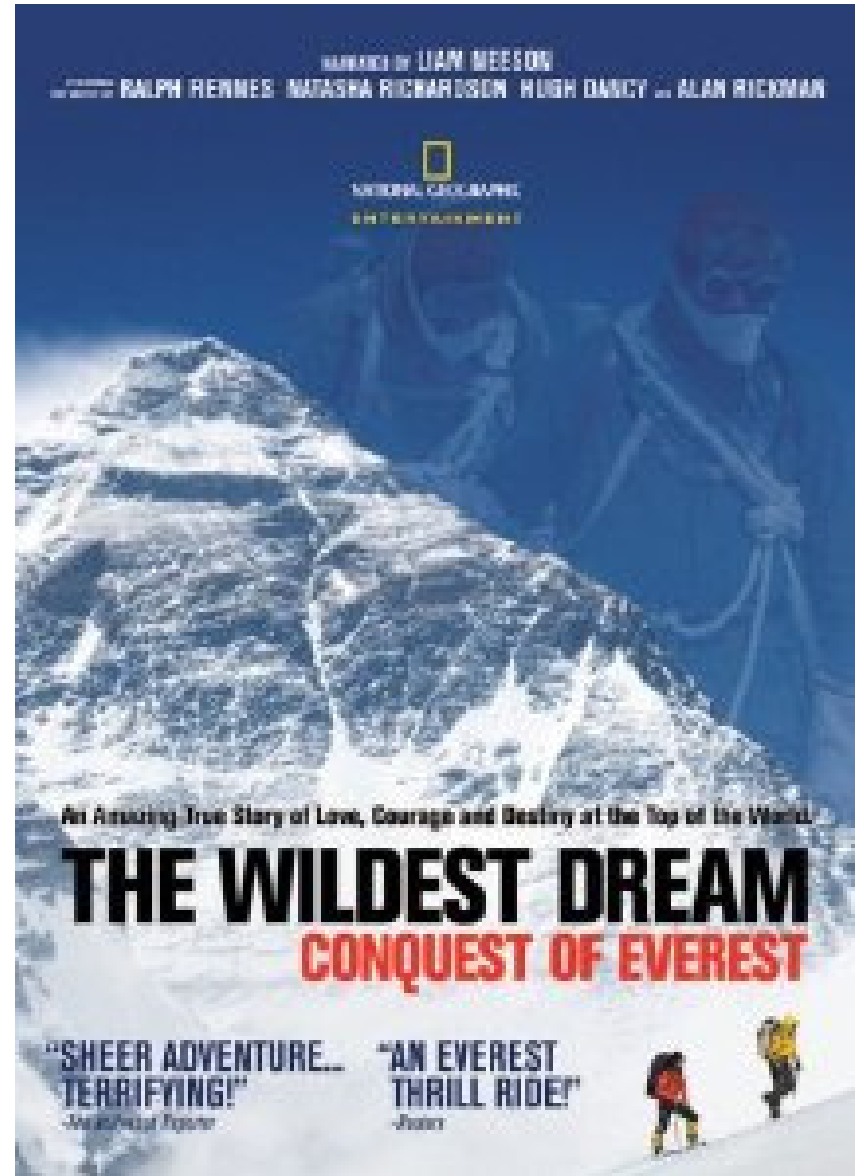
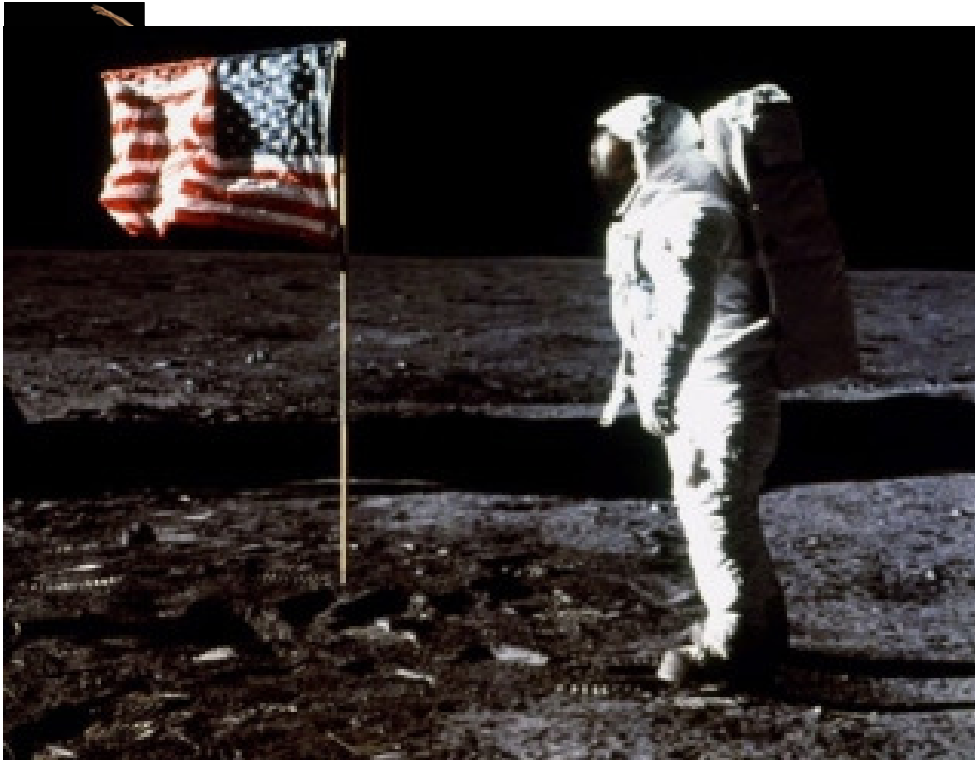
# Conflicts of Interest



MRI-DERANGEMENT (R) KNEE /SUPPORT STRUCTURES A  
pd\_tse\_fs\_tra  
Se: 10/03/2015 4:37:25 PM  
Acc #2351677C1  
Se: MR #3  
Im: 10/40  
ET: 7  
TR: 4170.0ms  
TE: 29.0ms

Castlereagh Imaging  
[ HUNTER, DAVID A ]  
[ 17/06/1968 ]  
[ M ] [ 046Y ]  
[ CAS1052363 ]

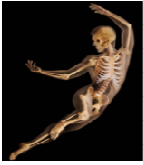




I don't give a

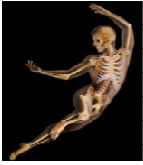
A black silhouette of a mouse is on the left, and a black silhouette of a donkey is on the right. A thin black line connects the mouse's tail to the donkey's head, forming a continuous shape.





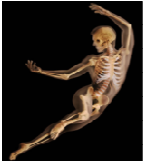
# Why are you here? To serve mice or men





# Final Word

- Disproportionate support to mouse research.
- Trial failures and translation will not be improved by more mouse research.
- More focus towards the clinical impact of our research and its translation.



# Acknowledgements



**Australian Government**

**Australian Research Council**



**Australian Government  
National Health and  
Medical Research Council**



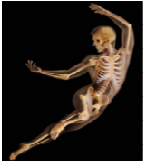
N H M R C

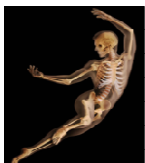


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Please vote: Should Osteoarthritis Research  
Focus on “Mice” or “Men”?

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07 July 2015**

[www.ismrm.org/workshops/Osteo15/](http://www.ismrm.org/workshops/Osteo15/)

**11–14 September 2015**  
**Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA USA**

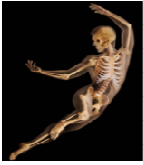




“NIH stands for the National Institutes of Health, not the National Institutes of Biomedical Research, or the National Institutes of Basic Biomedical Research”.

- Alan Schechter
- Despite massive investment in translational research clinical and basic scientists don't really communicate.





# Return on investment

- Funding research is all about return on investment. By funding basic research, we have seen that there is usually little return, certainly very little *immediate* return.
- Basic research is rarely developed in a practical way for doctors, hospitals or pharmaceutical companies.
- But if we invest in translational research, the wealth of knowledge available will be amplified since it all of a sudden has clinical applications



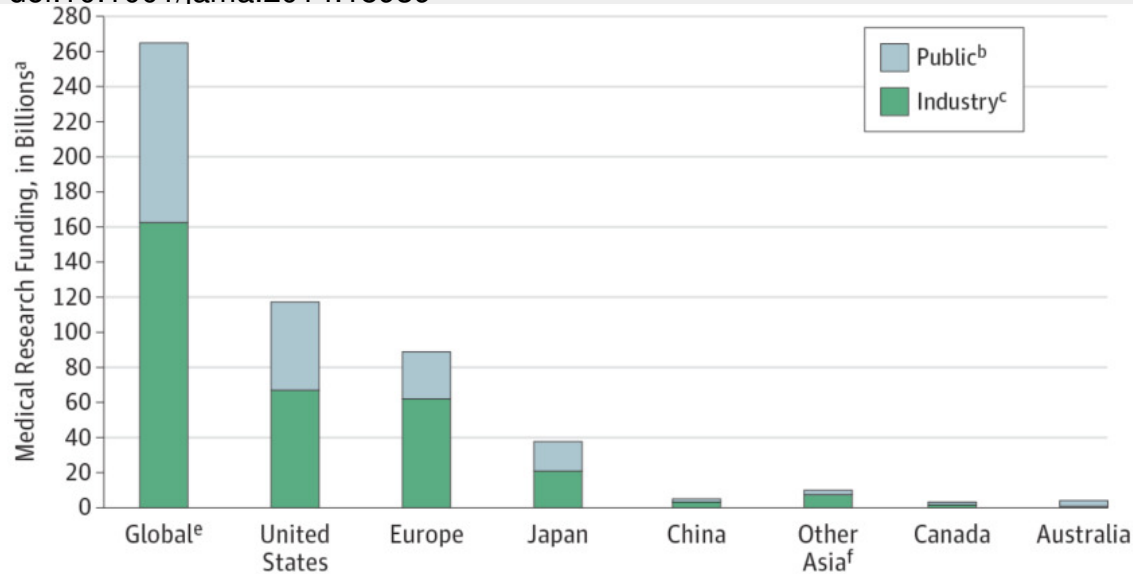
Moses H III, Dorsey R, Matheson DHM, Thier SO. Financial anatomy of biomedical research. *JAMA*. 2005;294(11):1333-1342.





From: **The Anatomy of Medical Research: US and International Comparisons**

JAMA. 2015;313(2):174-189. doi:10.1001/jama.2014.15939



Medical research funding, \$, in billions (%)<sup>a</sup>

Overall	265.0 (100)	117.2 (44)	88.6 (33)	37.8 (14)	4.9 (1.2)	9.7 (4)	3.1 (1.2)	3.8 (1.4)
Public <sup>b</sup>	102.8 (100)	50.5 (49)	26.9 (26)	17.0 (17)	1.3 (2)	2.4 (2)	1.8 (2)	2.8 (3)
Industry <sup>c</sup>	162.2 (100)	66.6 (41)	61.6 (38)	20.8 (13)	3.6 (0.8)	7.3 (4)	1.3 (0.8)	1.0 (0.6)
Compound annual growth rate, % (2004-2011) <sup>d</sup>	3.5	1.0	4.1	6.8	16.9	20.8	4.5	9.3

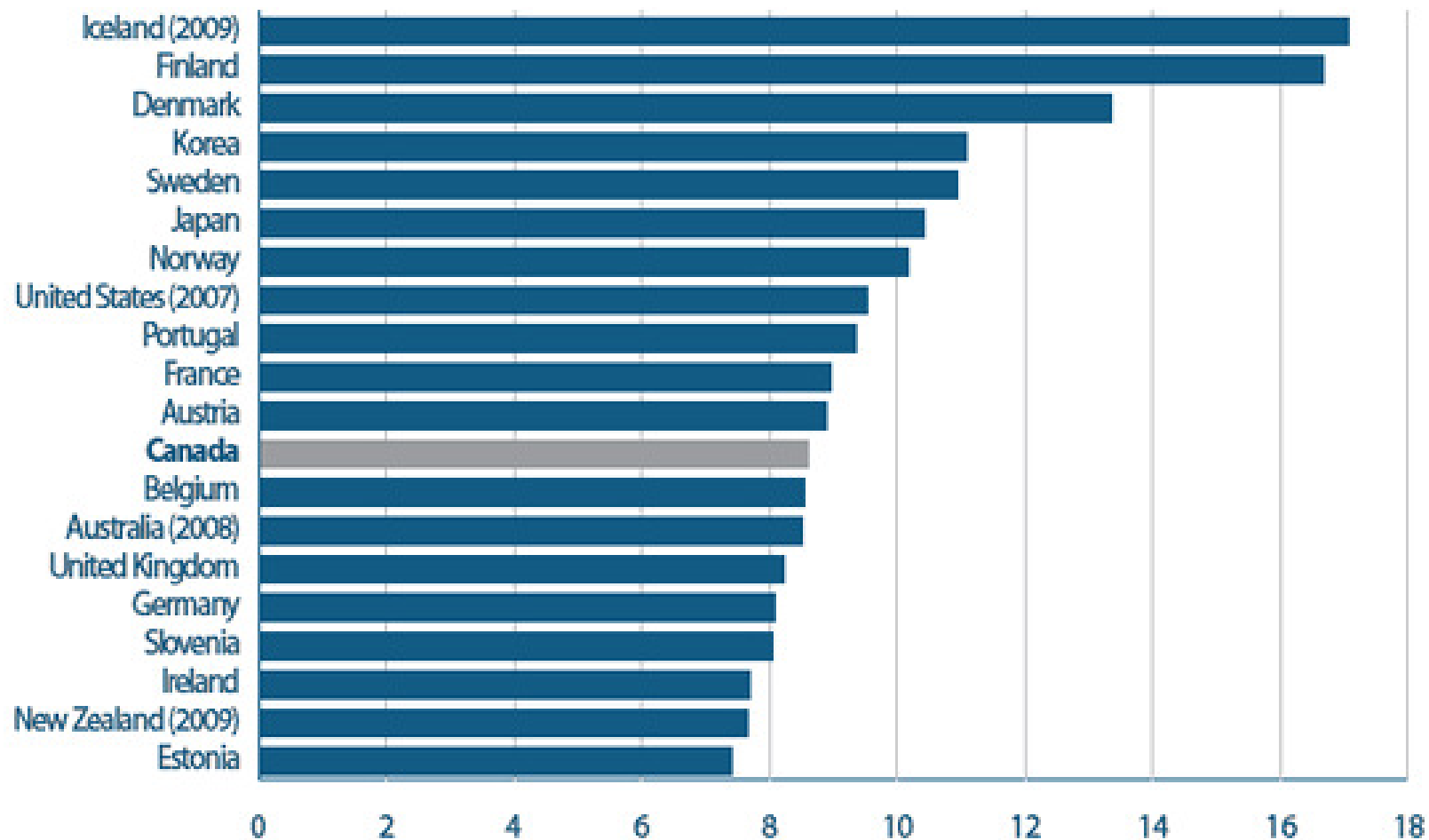
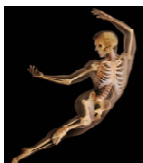
Figure Legend:

Global Medical Research Funding in Select Countries/Regions, 2011 The regions/countries/economies in the analysis include the major countries of North America (United States, Canada), Europe (including the 10 largest European countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), and Asia-Oceania (Australia, China, India, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea).

Data for African and South American countries and Russia were not available. Data were calculated according to methods outlined in eTable 6 in the Supplement.

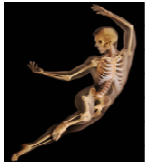
<sup>a</sup>Data were converted to US currency using an average annual exchange rate for the respective year and adjusted to 2012 dollars using the Biomedical Research and Development Price Index.





Full-time Equivalent Per '000 Total Employment  
OECD, *Main Science and Technology Indicators: 2012/2*





# Number of competing RPGs and R01 equivalent awards

