

SITE WEB : <http://www.improbable.com/ig/2013/>

Improbable research is research that makes people **laugh** and then **think**.

Improbable Research is the name of our organization. We collect (and sometimes conduct) improbable research. We publish a magazine called the [*Annals of Improbable Research*](#), and we administer the [Ig Nobel Prizes](#).

Why We Do It

Our goal is to make people laugh, then make them think. We also hope to **spur people's curiosity**, and to raise the question: **How do you decide what's important and what's not, and what's real and what's not** — in science and everywhere else?

The 2013 Ig® Nobel Prize Ceremony & Lectures

All speeches will be kept delightfully brief, thanks in part to eight-year-old Miss Sweetie Poo. This short video shows highlights of various Miss Sweetie Pooos at previous ceremonies.

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- [The Ceremony](#) (September 12)
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The 2013 Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony ; Thursday, September 12
[Sanders Theater](#), Harvard University

The 2013 Ig Nobel Prize Winners

MEDICINE PRIZE: Masateru Uchiyama [JAPAN], Xiangyuan Jin [CHINA, JAPAN], Qi Zhang [JAPAN], Toshihito Hirai [JAPAN], Atsushi Amano [JAPAN], Hisashi Bashuda [JAPAN] and [Masanori Niimi](#) [JAPAN, UK],

For assessing the effect of listening to opera, on heart transplant patients who are mice.

PSYCHOLOGY PRIZE: [Laurent Bègue](#) [FRANCE], [Brad Bushman](#) [USA, UK, the NETHERLANDS, POLAND], [Oulmann Zerhouni](#) [FRANCE], [Baptiste Subra](#) [FRANCE], and Medhi Ourabah [FRANCE]

For confirming, by experiment, that people who think they are drunk also think they are attractive.

JOINT PRIZE IN BIOLOGY AND ASTRONOMY: [Marie Dacke](#) [SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA], [Emily Baird](#) [SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA, GERMANY], [Marcus Byrne](#) [SOUTH AFRICA, UK], [Clarke Scholtz](#) [SOUTH AFRICA], and [Eric J. Warrant](#) [SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA, GERMANY],

For discovering that when dung beetles get lost, they can navigate their way home by looking at the Milky Way.

SAFETY ENGINEERING PRIZE: The late Gustavo Pizzo [USA],

For inventing an electro-mechanical system to trap airplane hijackers — the system drops a hijacker through trap doors, seals him into a package, then drops the encapsulated hijacker through the airplane's specially-installed bomb bay doors, whence he parachutes to earth, where police, having been alerted by radio, await his arrival.

PHYSICS PRIZE: [Alberto Minetti](#) [ITALY, UK, DENMARK, SWITZERLAND], Yuri Ivanenko [ITALY, RUSSIA, FRANCE], Germana Cappellini [ITALY], [Nadia Dominici](#) [ITALY, SWITZERLAND], and [Francesco Lacquaniti](#) [ITALY],

For discovering that some people would be physically capable of running across the surface of a pond — if those people and that pond were on the moon.

CHEMISTRY PRIZE: Shinsuke Imai [JAPAN], Nobuaki Tsuge [JAPAN], Muneaki Tomotake [JAPAN], Yoshiaki Nagatome [JAPAN], Toshiyuki Nagata [JAPAN, GERMANY], and Hidehiko Kumagai [JAPAN],

For discovering that the biochemical process by which onions make people cry is even more complicated than scientists previously realized.

ARCHAEOLOGY PRIZE: [Brian Crandall](#) [USA] and [Peter Stahl](#) [CANADA, USA],

For parboiling a dead shrew, and then swallowing the shrew without chewing, and then carefully examining everything excreted during subsequent days — all so they could see which bones would dissolve inside the human digestive system, and which bones would not.

PEACE PRIZE: [Alexander Lukashenko](#), president of Belarus,

For making it illegal to applaud in public, AND to the Belarus State Police, for arresting a one-armed man for applauding.

PROBABILITY PRIZE: [Bert Tolkamp](#) [UK, the NETHERLANDS], [Marie Haskell](#) [UK], [Fritha Langford](#) [UK, CANADA], [David Roberts](#) [UK], and [Colin Morgan](#) [UK],

For making two related discoveries: First, that the longer a cow has been lying down, the more likely that cow will soon stand up; and Second, that once a cow stands up, you cannot easily predict how soon that cow will lie down again.

PUBLIC HEALTH PRIZE: Kasian Bhanganada, Tu Chayavatana, Chumporn Pongnumkul, Anunt Tonmukayakul, Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, Krit Komaratal, and Henry Wilde,

For the medical techniques described in their report "Surgical Management of an Epidemic of Penile Amputations in Siam" — techniques which they recommend, except in cases where the amputated penis had been partially eaten by a duck.