

Read the text, published in 2009, about a different kind of Nobel Prize. Some parts are missing. Choose the correct part from the list (A-K) for each gap (1-8). There are two extra parts that you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you.

The Ig Nobel Prize

WASHINGTON (ISNS) - Next week's Nobel Prizes will be the most prestigious awards given to scientists this year. Last night's Ig Nobel Prizes, on the other hand, were indisputably the funniest. They spotlighted scientists whose work walks the fine line between silly and significant - a distinction that isn't always obvious.

This year's winners included Donald Unger, a doctor who received the Medicine Prize for (0) ____ - but not his right - for sixty years to see if the habit contributes to arthritis (it didn't). The Chemistry Prize recognized a technique for growing diamonds from tequila, while the Physics Prize highlighted a study about why pregnant women don't fall over that was published in Nature, one of the most prestigious journals in the scientific community.

The Ig Nobels are given out by Improbable Research, an organization that publicizes (1) "____," according to its website. The first prizes in 1991 featured a sperm bank that only accepts donations from Nobel Prize winners and studies about intelligent water and flatulence.

Silly-sounding science is often branded as frivolous and sometimes (2) _____. In America's last presidential race, for example, vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin attacked spending money on a particular scientific study. "These dollars go to projects that have little or nothing to do with the public good," she said in an October 24 speech in Pittsburgh. "Things like fruit fly research in Paris, France."

The problem with this perspective, said Marc Abrahams, originator of the Ig Nobels, is that (3) _____. Palin's fruit flies, for example, are pests that, according to Congressman Mike Thompson of California, pose a large threat to the U.S. olive industry. Fruit flies are also an essential genetic tool used to understand and develop treatments for medical conditions ranging from Huntington's disease and Alzheimer's disease to aging and diabetes. "A lot of things we now call breakthroughs (4) _____," said Abrahams.

Consider the peculiar case of the "Frog Dancing-Master." That was the mocking title given to Luigi Galvani, an 18th-century Italian physicist who used a static electricity generator to make dissected frog legs twitch. These experiments were the first to reveal that (5) _____ that Galvani called "animal electricity" - a finding that is one of the cornerstones of modern physiology and caused his name to be immortalized in the verb "galvanize".

Consider also a recent winner of the Ig Nobel, mathematician Lakshminarayanan Mahadevan of Harvard University. In 2007 he and his colleague Enrique Cerda Villablanca of the Universidad de Santiago de Chile received the Physics prize for studying how sheets become wrinkled, research published in the scientific journal Physical Review Letters.

"Everyday physics is interesting by definition," says Reinhardt Shuhmann, the managing editor of the journal. "It's a good way of (6) ____."

And wrinkling sheets aren't just a problem for persnickety housekeepers. Understanding how things wrinkle is important not only for (7) ____, but for engineering emerging technologies like nanotubes and ultra-thin films.

Mahadevan's research is also considered important by the MacArthur Foundation, which in September awarded him a strings-free check for \$500,000 to support his studies - (8) ____.

The take-away message of last night's Ig Nobels - which recognized bacteria from giant panda feces that reduce kitchen refuse and a bra that doubles as a gas mask - may have been that only the hindsight of history can separate the joke from the genius.

A	important science often sounds strange
B	keeping the non-physics population interested in science
C	animals are capable of producing power
D	criticized as a waste of taxpayer money
E	have revolutionized the way Europeans live
F	cracking the knuckles of his left hand
G	muscles are controlled by electric impulses
H	research that makes people laugh and then think
I	combating aging skin
J	a prestigious fellowship also known as a "genius grant"
K	were once considered pretty crazy

