

And the award for the strangest, most unusual, and **downright** hilarious scientific research goes to

Pizza might protect against cancer, why wombats **poop** in cubes and a **diaper** changing machine that can be used on human babies — these are just some of the research and inventions awarded at this year's Ig Nobel Prizes, a **spoof** of the actual Nobel Prize awards.

downright 彻头彻尾地

poop 排便

diaper 尿布

spoof 滑稽模仿；戏弄

The Ig Nobels are "intended to celebrate the unusual, honor the imaginative — and spur people's interest in science, medicine, and technology," according to its website. Even if the science does sound, well, **hilarious**.

hilarious 欢笑的；滑稽的

improbable 不可能的

Organized by the magazine Annals of **Improbable** Research, the awards have been going on for 29 years, always celebrated in September with a **gala** held at Harvard University. Winners accept their prizes from "genuinely **bemused genuine** Nobel **Laureates**," the website reads.

gala 祝贺；节日

bemuse 使发呆；使困惑

genuine 真正的

laureate 荣誉的；获奖者

The winners are always sure to cause a few laughs, and this year's are no different. Two scientists from France won the **Anatomy** Prize for measuring **scrotal** temperature **asymmetry** in naked and clothed postmen in France, for example (the left one is warmer, but only when the postman is clothed).

anatomy 解剖

scrotal 阴囊的

asymmetry 不对称

itch 痒；渴望

Another team won the Peace Prize for trying to measure the pleasure of scratching an **itch** (itching in the ankle and back is way more pleasurable, they discovered).

There are more, and they're all real studies. Though some may sound ridiculous, the magazine holds that they're not trying to make fun of science or its achievements.

"We are honoring achievements that make people laugh, then think. A lot of good science gets attacked because of its absurdity. A lot of bad science gets *revered* despite its absurdity, " the magazine states on their website.

revere 尊敬

Hey, we'll take anything that encourages us to eat more pizza.