

# The Diffusion of Innovation, and Trojan Mice

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# (What the *Next* 25 years of Drug Checking in Australia Might Look Like)

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# We've Come a Long Way Already...



**2018**

First Government  
Sanctioned Pill Testing,  
GTM, ACT

**CanTEST**  
HEALTH AND DRUG CHECKING SERVICE

**2022**

First Fixed Site  
Drug Checking Service,  
ACT

**2024**

- First Government Sanctioned Pill Testing, REL, QLD
- First Fixed Site Drug Checking, QLD
- Announcement of funding for drug checking in VIC

2000

2005

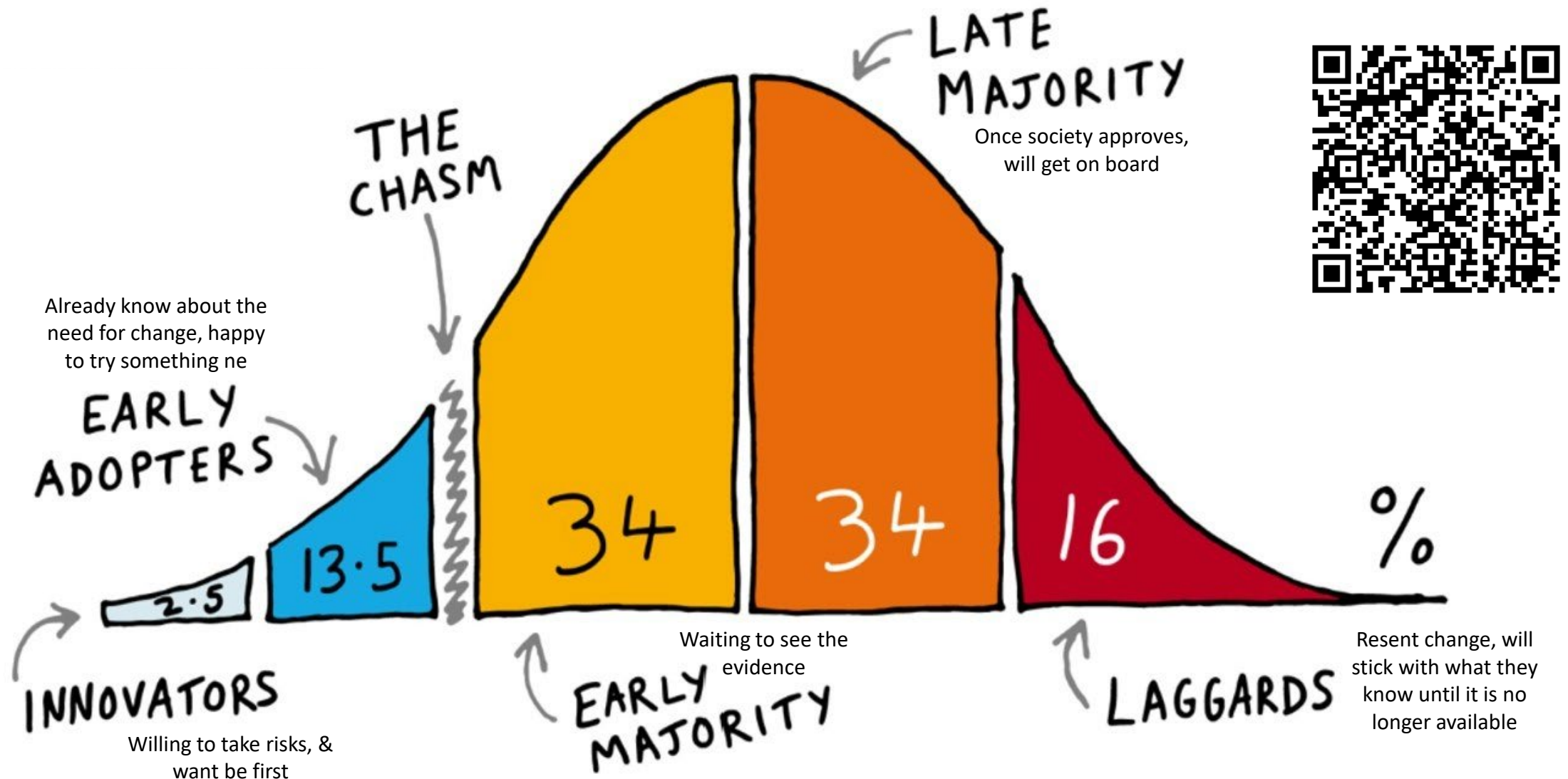
2010

2015

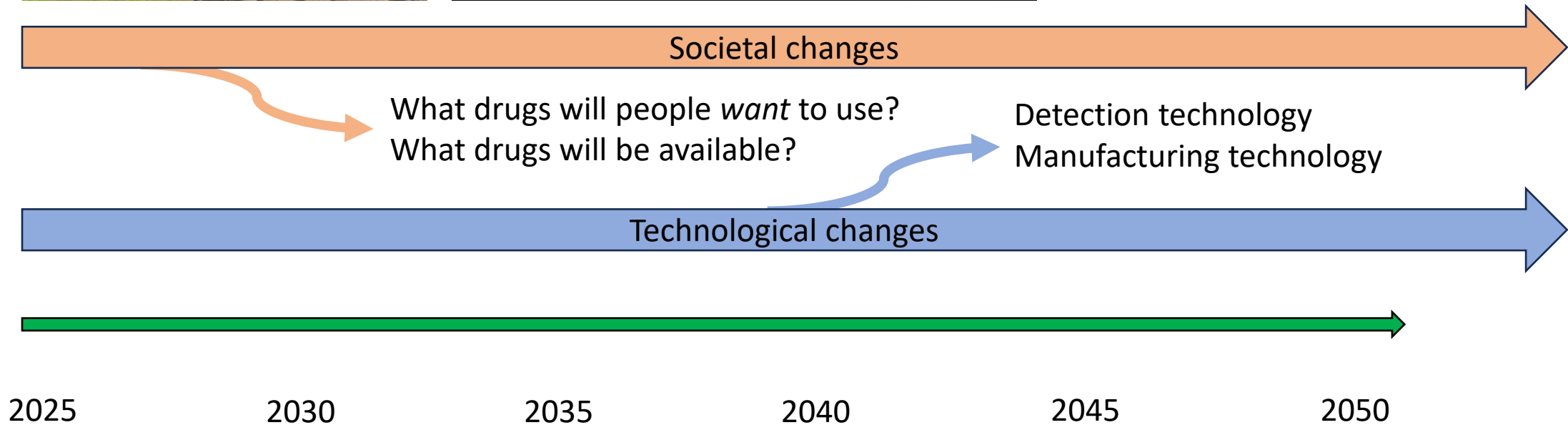
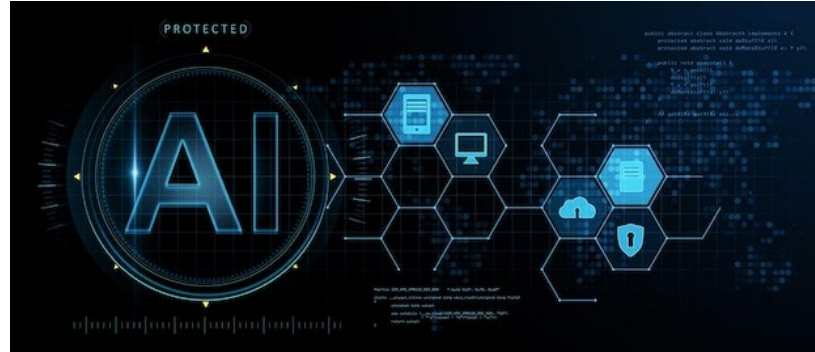
2020

2025

# Diffusion of Innovation



# Where is it all going...?



Turns out,  
augury  
is *really* complicated stuff...



**FORESIGHT**

Drugs Futures 2025?

Horizon Scan

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



ERROR  
PROBLEM DOES  
NOT EXIST



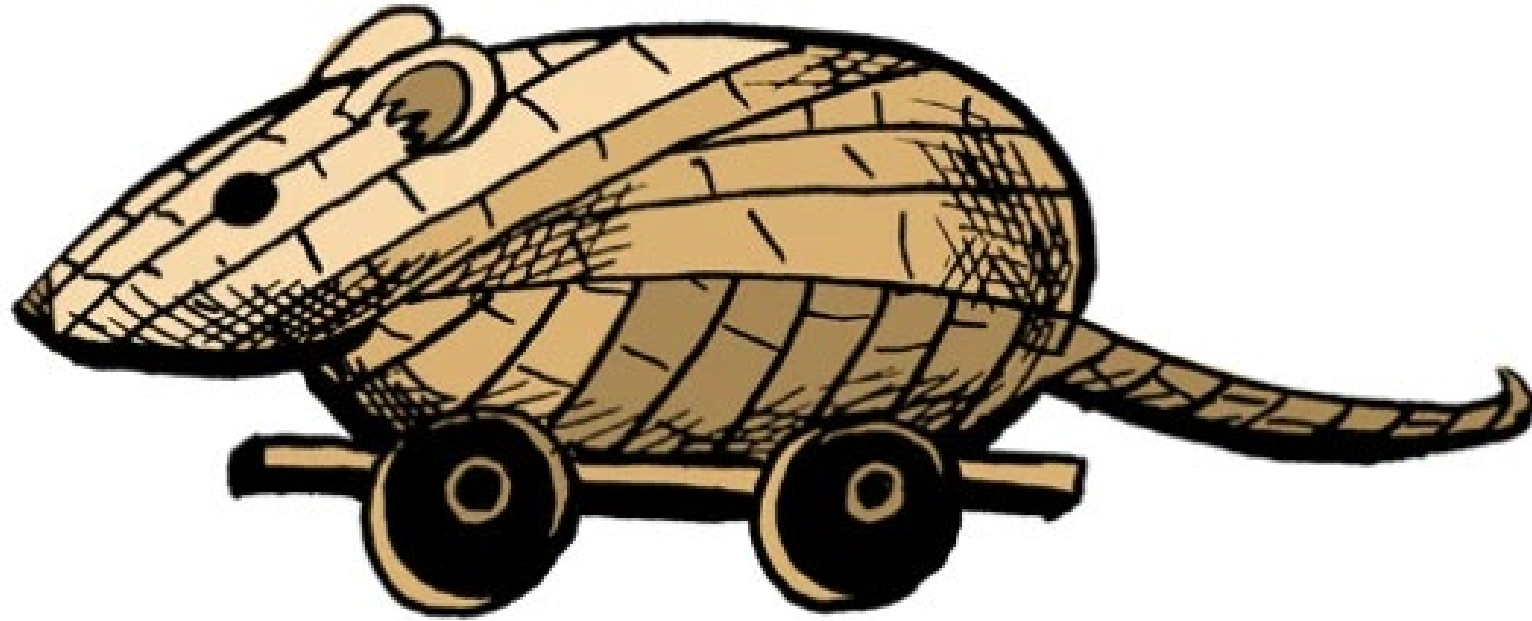
How *do* we plan for 'unknown unknowns'?



How *do* we plan for ‘unknown unknowns’?



Introducing...



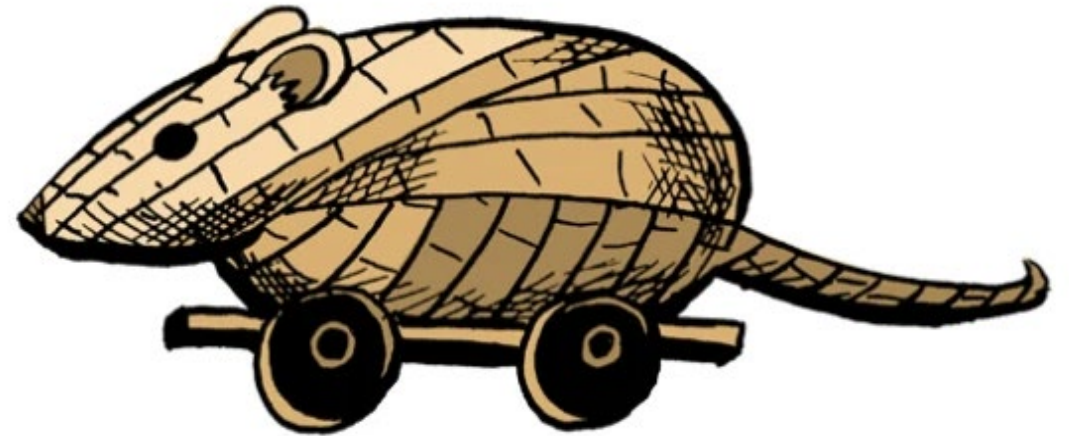
Our Trojan Mouse\*



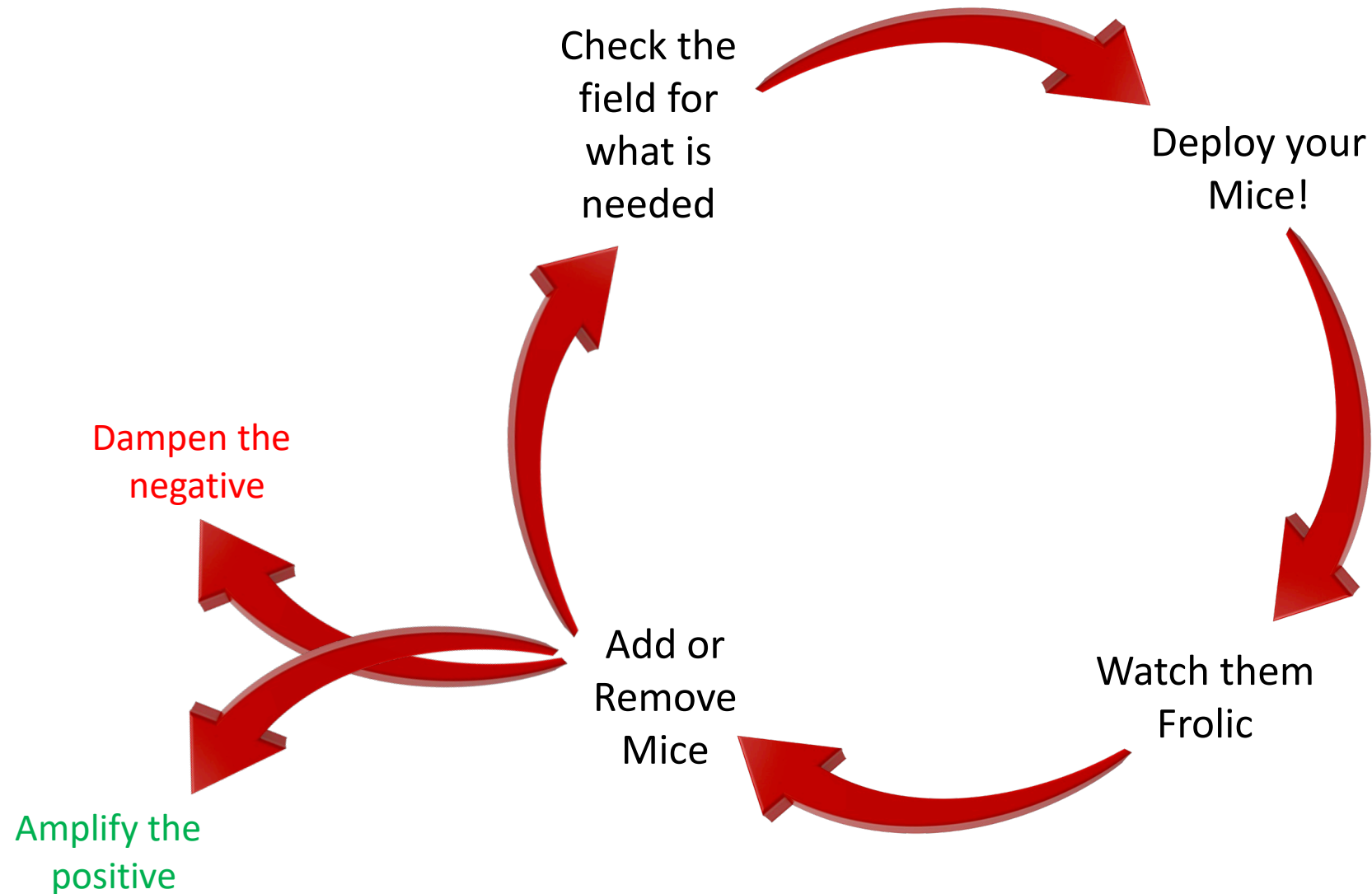
\*Picture by Elizabeth Beier

# Trojan Mice (Safe to Fail Probes, for Complex Problems)

- an alternative approach to the 'big single model' approach to problem solving
- probe and gather data about complex / wicked problems
- testing more ideas, simultaneously
- more, and more diverse, approaches to a big problem
- the more Trojan Mice you deploy, the more data you'll get



# ‘How’ do Trojan Mice Work?



# Types of Trojan Mice to Launch



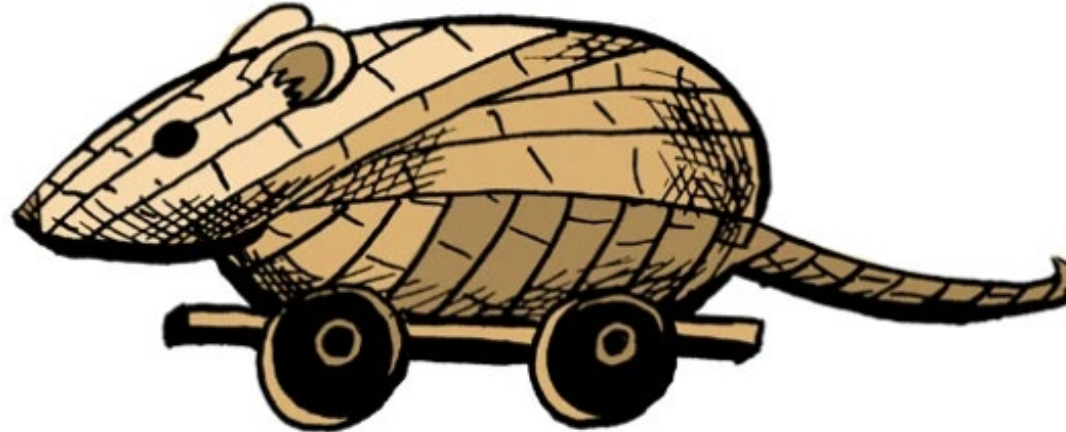
## **The Obvious**

- Your best mouse



## **The Oblique**

- Your mouse outta' left field



## **The Naïve**

- Your daftest



## **The Failure**

- 'How' do you fail?



## **The Contrary**

- An ornary mouse

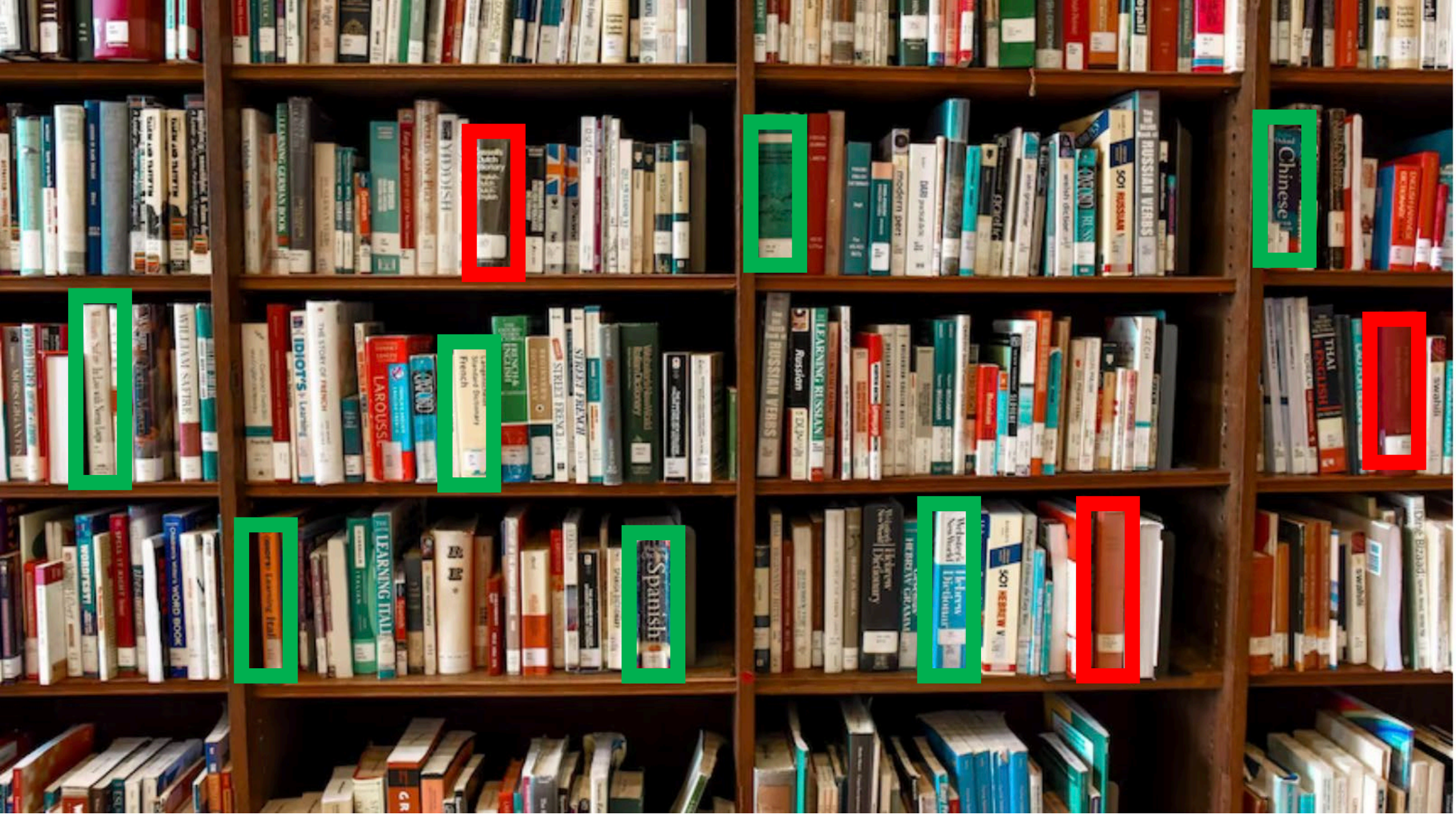


# ‘Why’ do Trojan Mice Work?

- “No mice were harmed in their deployment”
  - Quick- days, not months
  - Cheap- cents, not dollars
  - Parallel- many operating away at the same time
  - Measurable- generates data
  - Light Governance- doesn’t need an abundance of ‘permissions’ or ‘approvals’ (does need ‘trust’)
- 
- Both PTA & CanTEST have functioned as Trojan Mice









So what *does* the future hold?



# Politics

- Real life implications
- Unpredictability is problematic for progressive causes

- QLD
- VIC
- Federal Australia
- America

## Queensland Premier David Crisafulli reluctant to answer whether Schoolies pill testing will go ahead

By Jessica Lamb, Madeleine Cross, Bernadette Young, Nicole Dyer and Sarah Cumming

ABC Gold Coast

Drugs

Tue 29 Oct



Labor previously announced pill testing would be available during Schoolies on the Gold Coast in November. (ABC News: Damien Larkins)

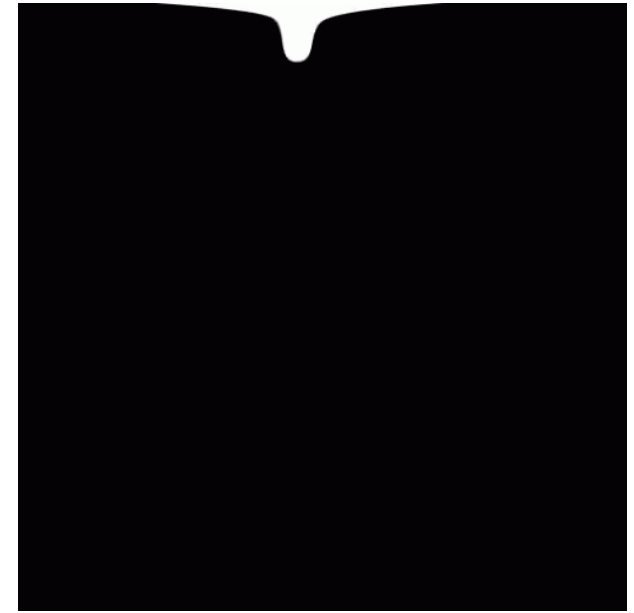
# More Synthetics

- Less cultivation
- 'Any time, any place' production
- Ease of transport
- Use of active intermediates (pharmacological)



# Iron Law (on steroids), & Cocktails

- Seeing that already with nitazenes
- Real implications for limits of detection
- Increasingly 'professional' skills needed
- Increased & variable *polysubstance* threat
  - 'Down'
  - 'Tusi'
  - Novel benzodiazepines





# State Based Actors...

- As a source of income for growing numbers of sanctioned countries
  - North Korea
  - Syria
- By way of revenge...



# Dual use AI



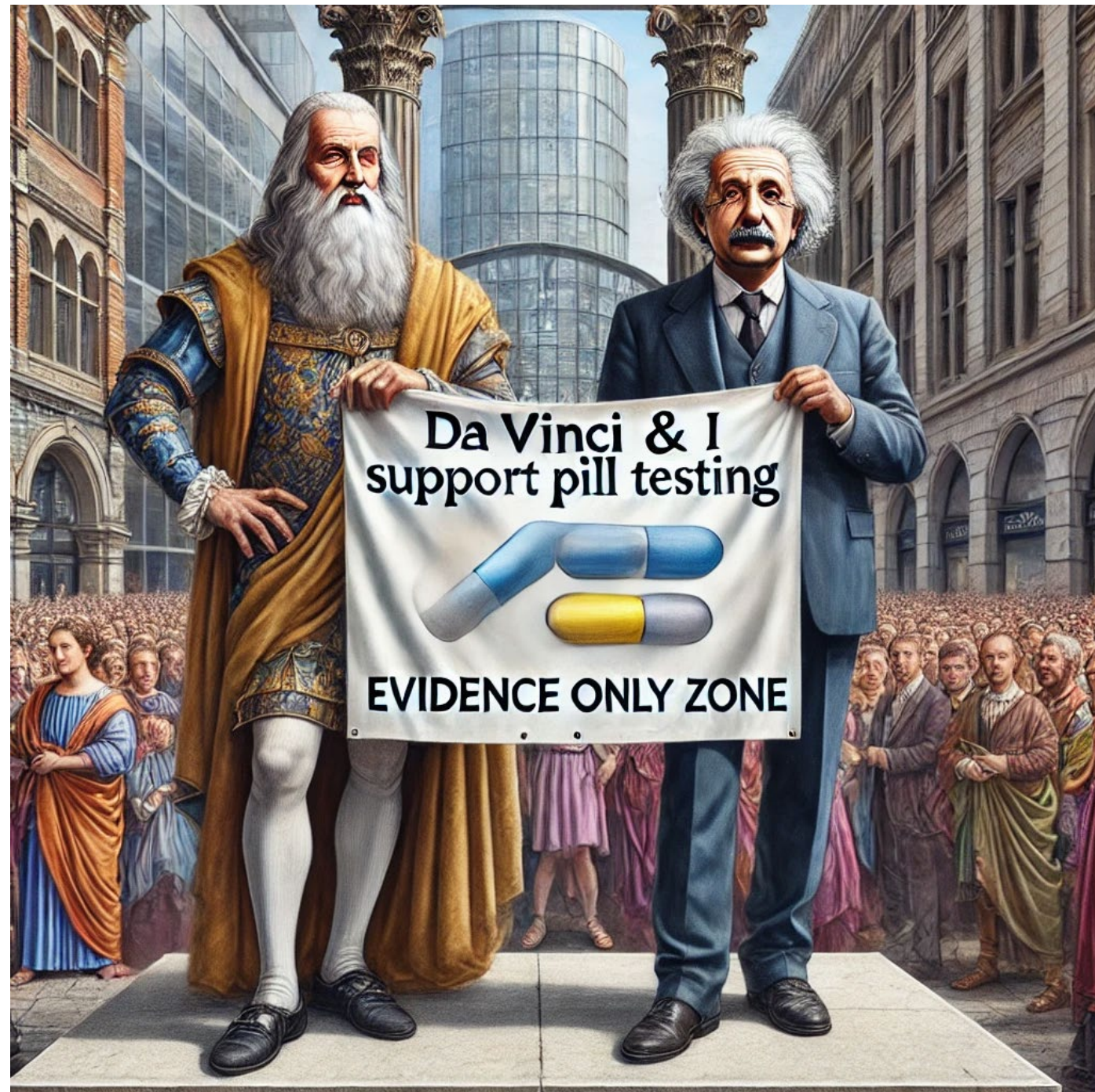


# Dual use AI





Opportunities...



Maybe some benefits on the horizon...



Réinventir

## In summary...

- *Effective* drug checking is always likely to be a frontier endeavor
- The *need* for it is likely to be greater in the next 25 years than it was in the last 25 years
- It's not going to be any easier- global, as well as interdisciplinary, collegiality is a *sine qua non*
- Future drug checking services will need to be as nimble as the environment they are destined to face...

Much like a mouse.





## Acknowledgements



@actinosproject