
Science Day in Canada: Valuing Applied & Multidisciplinary Research

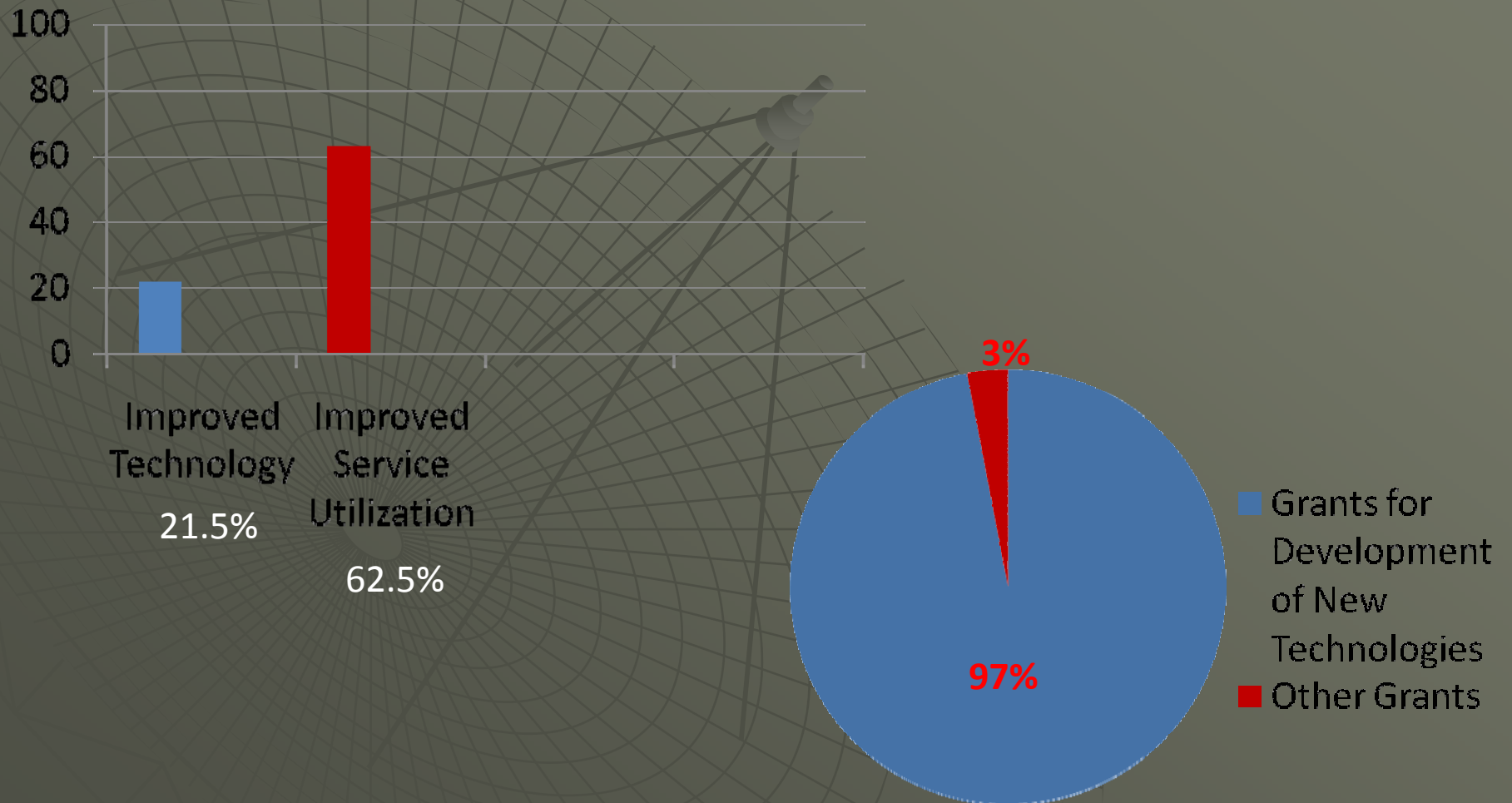
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Saving the Lives of Children under 5 in 42 Low Income Countries: The Estimated Impact of Improved Technology vs. Improved Service Utilization



Leroy J.L., Habicht J-P., Pelto G and Bertozzi S.M. (2007) "Current prioritize in health research funding and lack of impact on the number of child deaths per year", *American Journal of Public Health* 97(2):219-223.

Innovation? Multi-disciplinary
Research Matters!

- ◆ Challenging questions (and solutions) of contemporary society “lie in the cracks between the cooling cores of the traditional disciplines”





"I'M ON THE VERGE OF A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH,
BUT I'M ALSO AT THAT POINT WHERE CHEMISTRY
LEAVES OFF AND PHYSICS BEGINS, SO I'LL HAVE TO
DROP THE WHOLE THING."

FOUR OUT OF FIVE DOCTORS AGREE...



HTTP://WWW.V961.COM/BIZARRO

**...FOUR OUT OF FIVE LAWYERS
DESERVE A GOOD THRASHING.**

8/9
PIRARO

Solving the Problem of Wait Times

Wait Time Guarantees?

Increased Public Spending?

Rewards and Penalties for Providers?

Increased Privatization?



Using Applied Scientific Research: Improved Results for Pilot Patients

- ◆ Patients in new (evidence-based) hip and knee care path in Alberta:
 - Had reduced waits: consultation cut to 21 days from 145 and surgery cut to 37 days from 290
 - Benefited from decreased wait
 - Experienced improved quality of life
 - Received safe treatment
 - Were involved and accountable
 - Were generally more satisfied than control patients

12 Months – Lasting Benefits

For pilot patients in new path

◆ Benefited more than control patients



Faster and greater recovery of physical function



Greater reduction in pain



Greater reduction in osteoarthritis symptoms



Faster recovery of daily social activities



Improved quality of life with better outcomes



Significantly greater general health improvement

Institutional and Cultural Hurdles to....



- ◆ Multi-disciplinary Research
- ◆ Applied Policy Research

Breaking Down Barriers

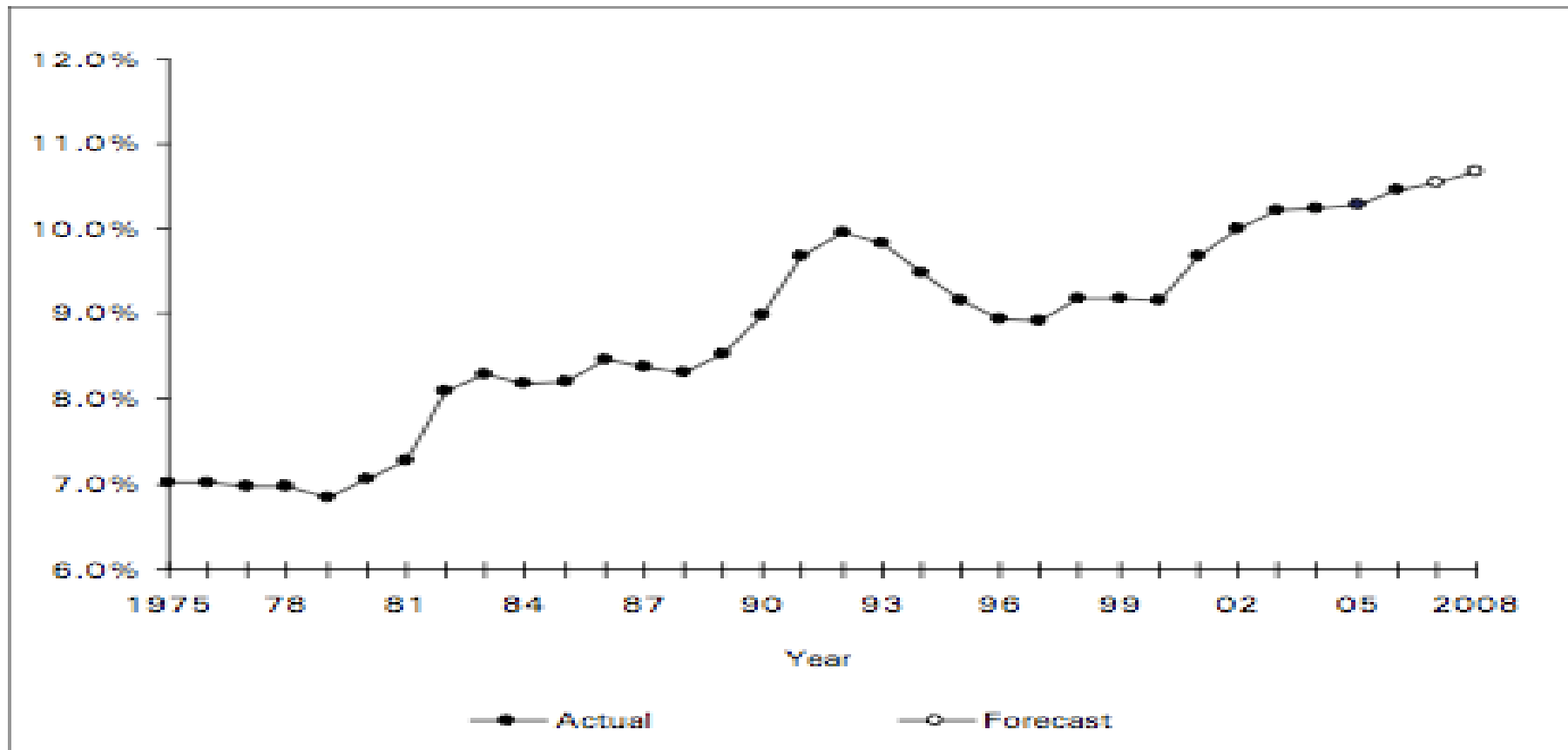
The background features a dark gray grid with a circular pattern of lines radiating from a central point. A surveying instrument, possibly a theodolite or similar, is positioned on the grid, with its legs and a horizontal line extending across the middle of the image.

The First Law of Economists: For every economist, there exists an equal and opposite economist.

- ◆ *The Second Law of Economists:* They're both wrong.

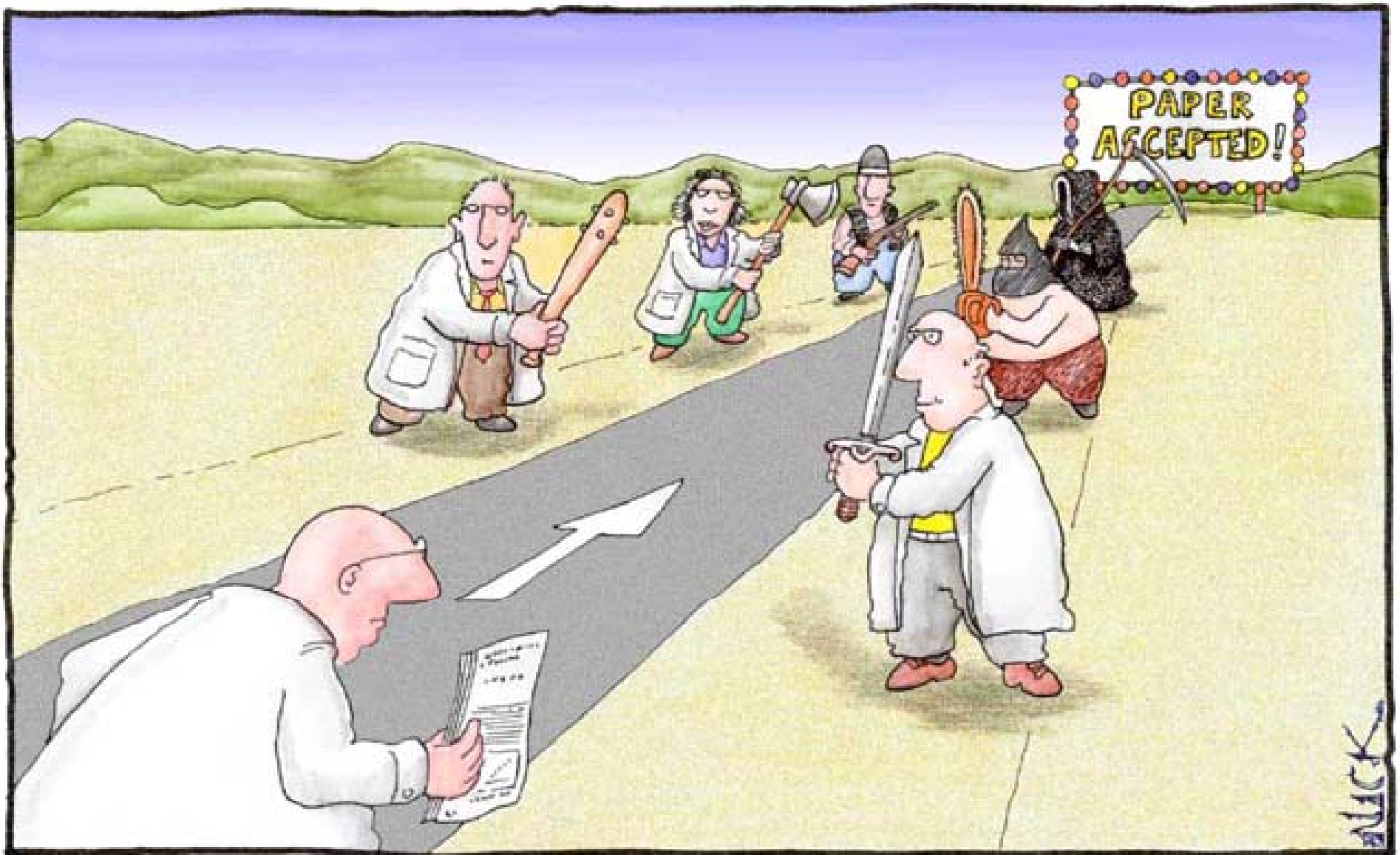
Investing in Health

Figure 5 Total Health Expenditure as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product, Canada, 1975 to 2008



Sources

National Health Expenditure Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information; Gross Domestic Product, Statistics Canada.



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

What Needs to Change?

- ◆ Researchers need to build positive relationships with policy-makers
- ◆ There needs to be cultural change on the part of decision-makers where research is not viewed as threatening but an important part of the evidence base needed for quality improvement and excellence in governance and decision-making