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# Radical ways to select risky research & create new programmes

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# ERC Lesson

how incremental innovation leads  
to perception of radical approach

- ▶ “Frontier research” as innocuous term replacing “basic research”, vaguely referring to “Pasteur’s quadrant”
- ▶ “Gold standard”, “Success story” within FP format

# Tweaking peer review

Goal was to achieve three convincing features

- ▶ Interdisciplinarity: panels with broad scope
- ▶ Autonomy: Give panels latitude indecision-making
- ▶ Risk-affinity: top-down, secretive appointing of panel members

# Why is peer review still in place?

## Three core doubts about peer review

- ▶ Biases
- ▶ Conservatism
- ▶ System-overload

... but peer review still best way to establish  
“dual legitimacy” of allocating funds