

5th October 2023@Daiwa Foundation Japan House

SPORT OF KINGS: HORSE RACING IN THE UK AND JAPAN



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BORN IN 27TH AUG, 1972

Official veterinarian of Japan Racing Association since 1997

- Medication control, accident management, welfare, and hygiene control
- General practice and surgery of racehorses
- Representatives of Japan/Asia in International Horseracing Committees



IN MY TALK...

- ▶ The history of the horse racing industry
- ▶ Comparison between the UK and Japanese horseracing
- ▶ Touch on the challenging issues that horseracing is currently confronting

Disclaimer

My expertise is exclusively confined to matters pertaining to horse racing and equines.



Role of JRA London representative office

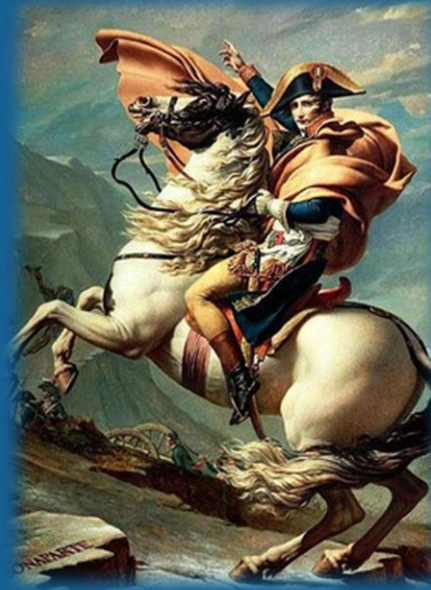






The relationship between horses and mankind

“more than 5,000 years”



Hunting
Target

Live stock

Transportation

Military
Affairs

Power

~BC8,000

BC3,500~

BC3,000~

BC2,500~

~20th Century

foodstuffs

transportation • power for agriculture

The relationship between horses and mankind (modern times)



Spectate Sports



Ride Leisure



Meet/contact Diverse use



Therapy

Race

Pleasure ride • carriage

Equestrian

Festival

Consumption



Modern horseracing began in the UK



16~17th Century

Birth of modern
horseracing

Late 17th ~early 18th C

Flourish of horseracing

Late 18th C

Establishment of modern
horseracing

Modern horseracing

- Control of pedigree (Studbook, Weatherbys)
- Harmonization of rules (The Jockey Club)
- Keeping the record (Racing calendar, Weatherbys)

1821

『Thoroughbred』

First appeared

Thoroughbred

Definition: pure breed, 8 consecutive generations bred with thoroughbreds

Three great progenitors

Darley Arabian



Byerlery Turk

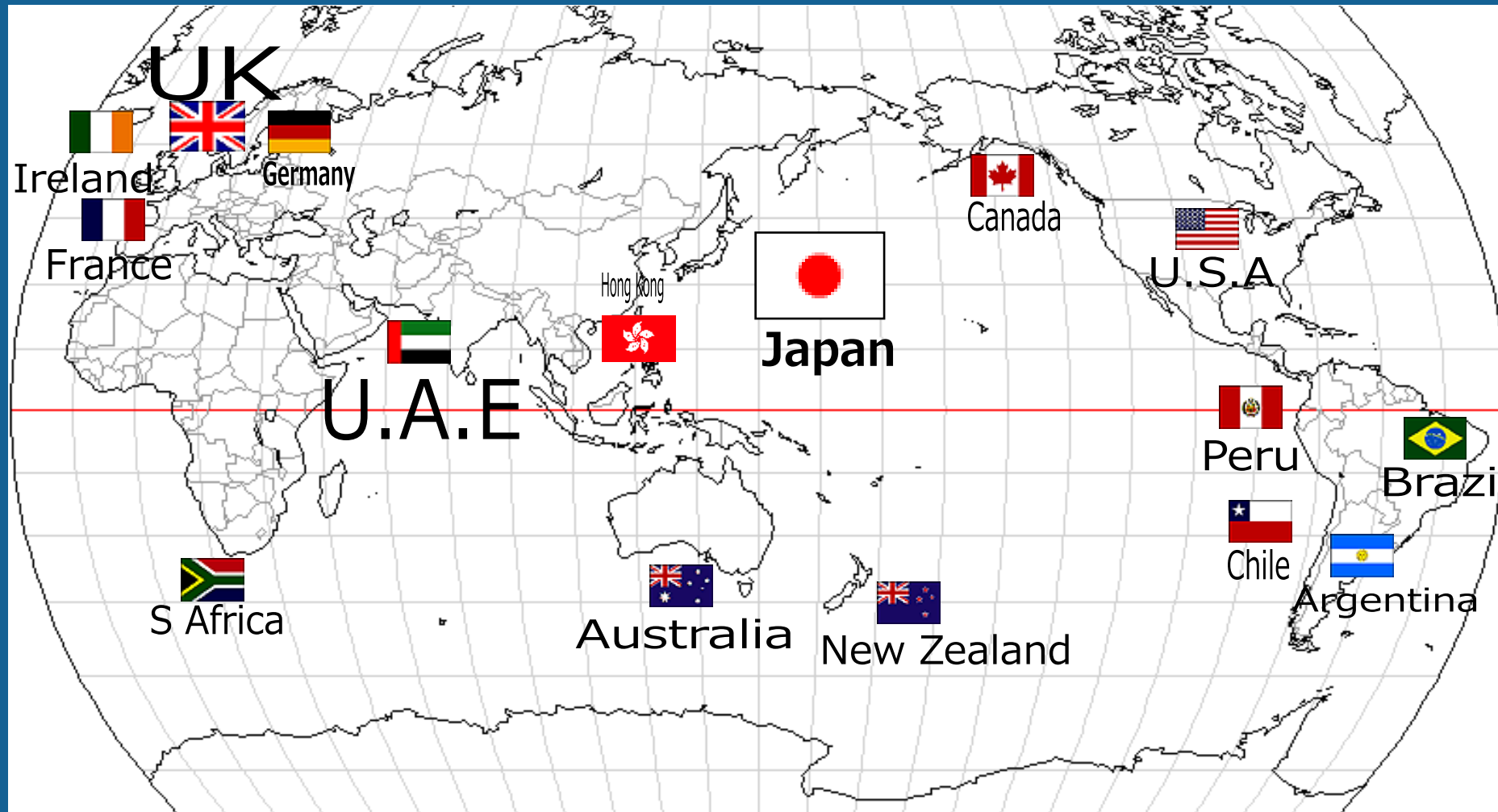


Godolphin Arabian



The first volume of the stud book was established in 1791
Over 300 years of strict pedigree management= **Blood sports**

Modern horseracing is conducted in over 90 countries

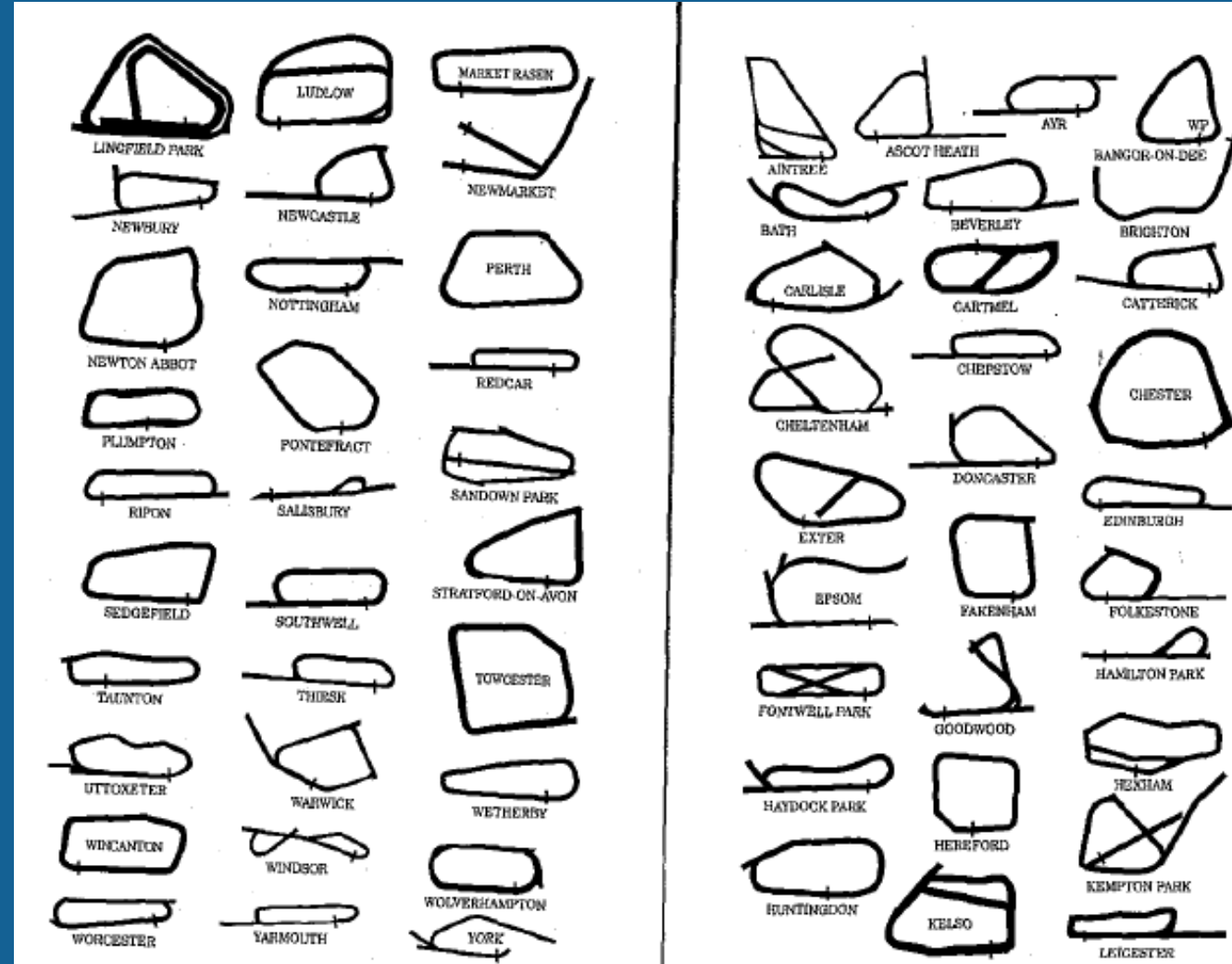


International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
Ranks above 16 countries/Regions as 'Part I'

Characteristic of the UK racing

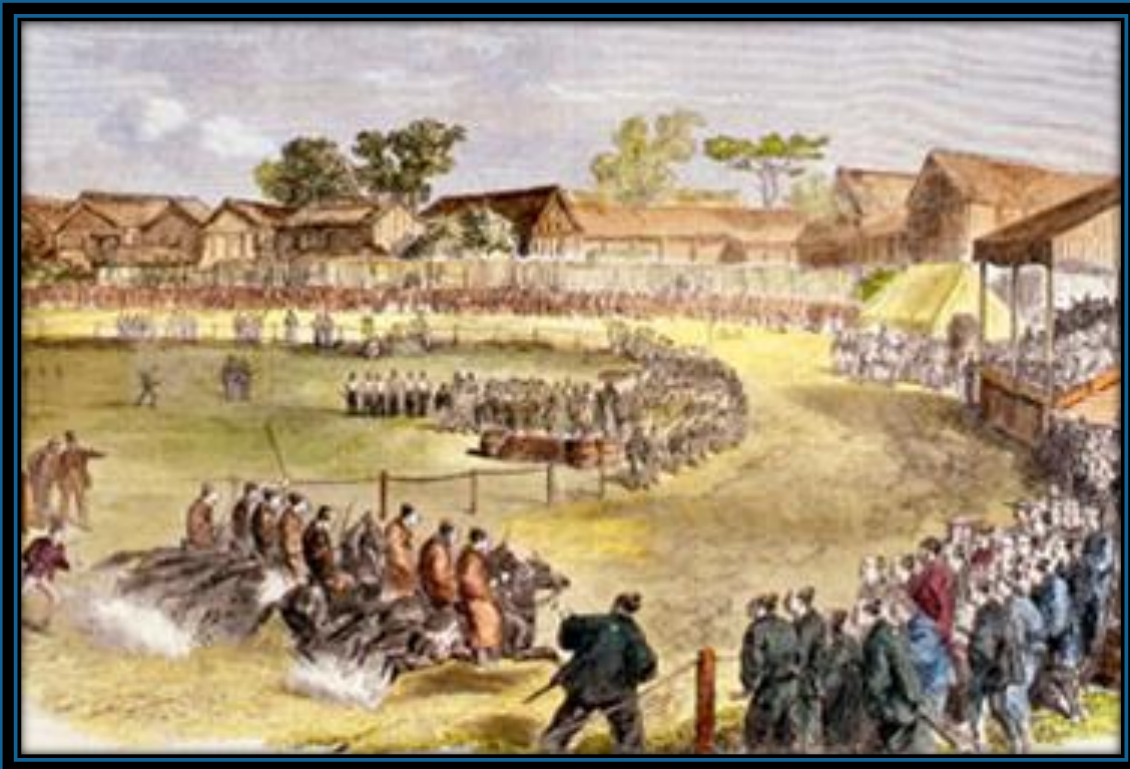
- ✓ Turf racing is the main form (using natural terrain)
- ✓ Jump/Hurdle races are very popular
- ✓ World's highest racing standards

59 racecourses



History of Horseracing in Japan

In 1862, 'modern style horseracing', which means several racehorses compete in a circular track, was organized for the first time in Japan by British and other European residents in Yokohama, 30km away from Tokyo.



▲at British military base



▲Race card in 19th century

JRA vs the UK Racing (Core Activities)

- JRA core activities includes the following;
Yellow stars are the equivalent to that of the UK.



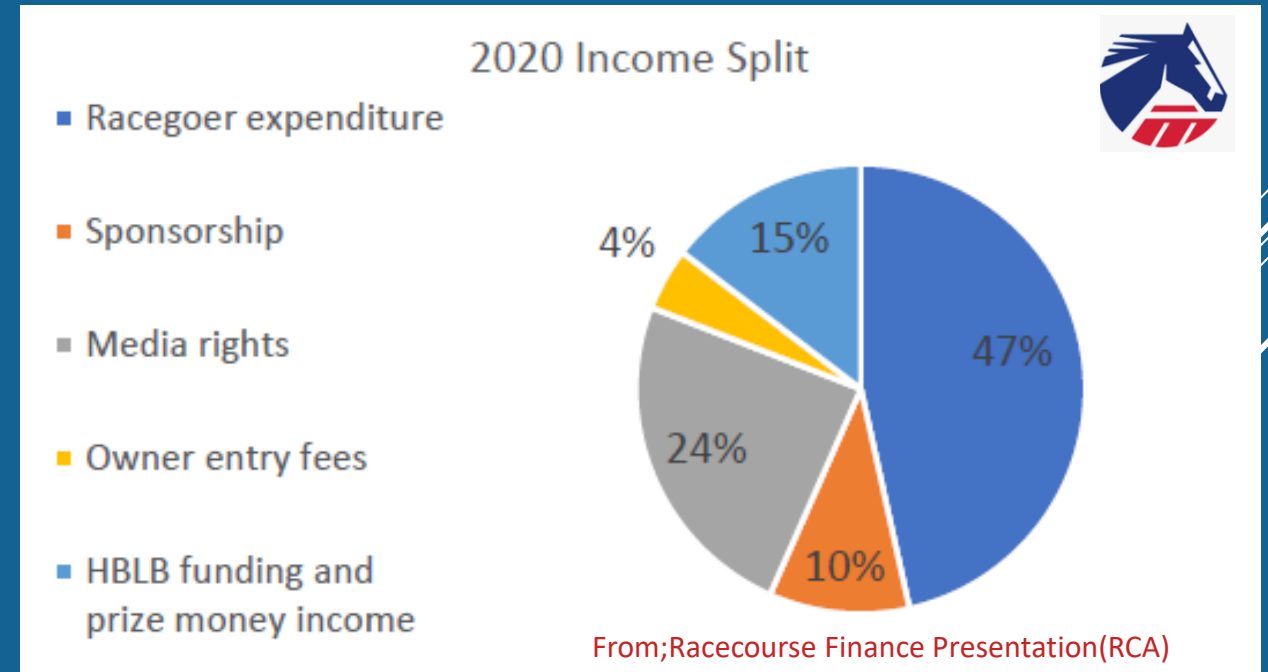
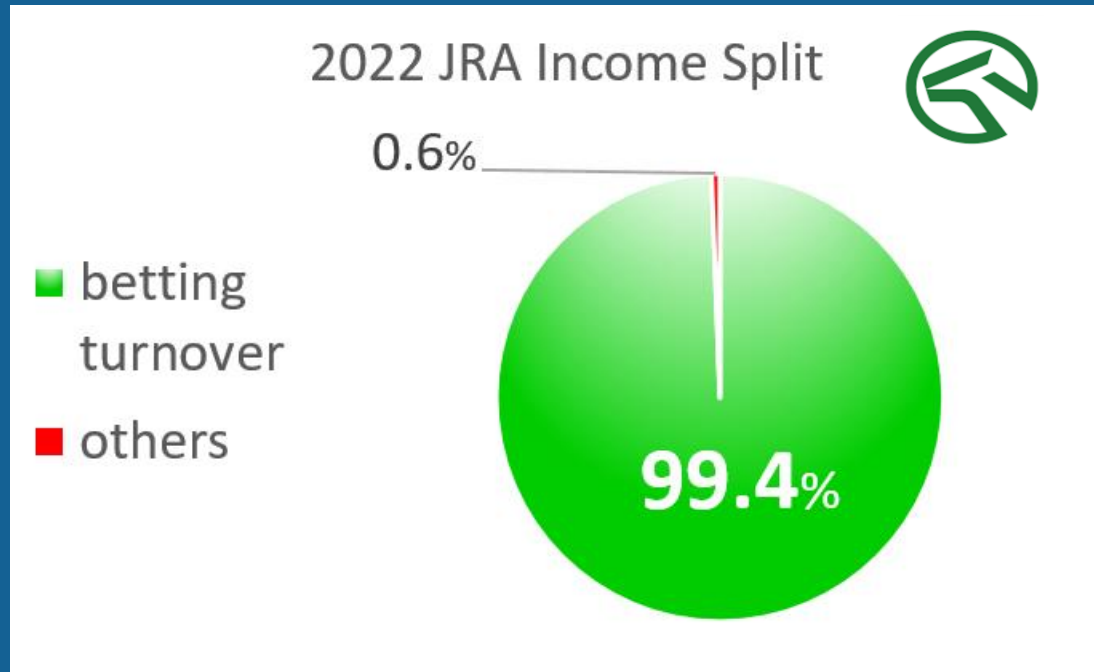
JRA vs the UK Racing (Basic Figures)

2022	 JRA	 NAR	 BHA
Racecourse	10	15	59
Code	Flat/Jump	Flat/Ban-ei(*1)	Flat/Jump
Surface	Turf/Dirt	Dirt(*2)	Turf/AWT
Race meeting	Saturdays & Sundays	Mainly Weekdays	Almost Everyday
Fixtures	288	Approx 1,300	1,446
The N of Races	3,456	Approx 15,000	10,217 (F6,339/J3,878)

(*1) Ban-ei is Draft Horse Racing (*2) A few turf races are held in Morioka Racecourse

JRA vs the UK Racing (Revenue/Income)

- 99.4% of our income comes from betting turnover. It is the key for JRA business. Unlike the UK, income from hospitality, media rights and sponsorship are almost zero.



* 'Others' include admission fee, registration fee(horses&owners) etc.

JRA vs the UK Racing (Racing personnel/ Horses in 2021)

People	JRA	NAR	BHA
Owner	2,700	4,800	13,500
Trainer	200	430	600
Work Rider	1,700	50	N/A
Groom	700	2,100	N/A
Jockey	150	270	400
Breeder	1,050		3,300

*Types of ownershipment in Japan is the same as BHA(sole, company, partnership, syndicate and racing club).

*From BHA website and TBA website.

Horse	JRA	NAR	BHA
Registered	8,000	13,000	14,500
Newly Registered	5,000	N/A	N/A
Retire	5,300(*1)	N/A	N/A
Live Foal	7,500(*2)		4,700
Sire	280		170
Dam	10,800		9,000

(*1) 70% of retired horses are transferred to NAR racing to keep their career.

(*2) 66% of foals are registered with JRA.

Challenging issues

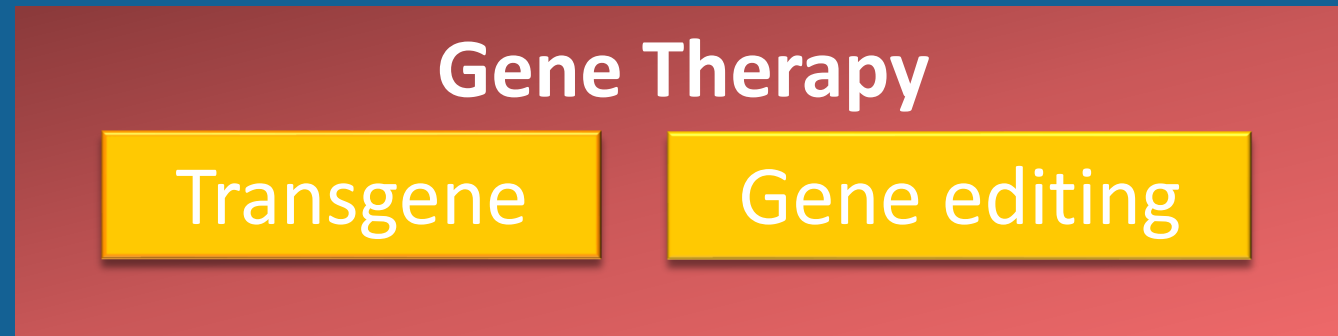
careersinracing



- ▶ Sustainability (labor shortage, gaining new participants, diversity, environmental issues)
- ▶ Welfare of the horse (heat stress, whip, second career etc.)
- ▶ Welfare of the human (jockey's health, mental health care etc.)
- ▶ Emerging doping agents



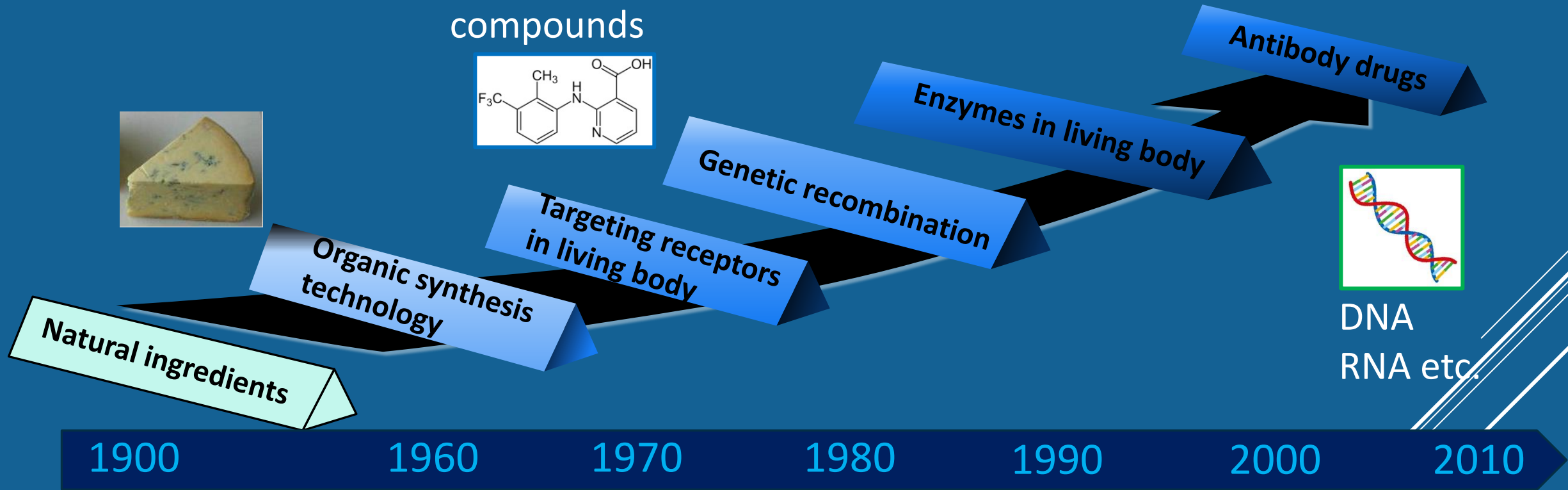
Gene Doping is a major threat to horseracing



 ABUSE

Damages the Integrity of Sport and Wagering
Risk of creating 'genetically modified thoroughbred'
= Threatens the integrity of the Thoroughbred

Transition of Drug development

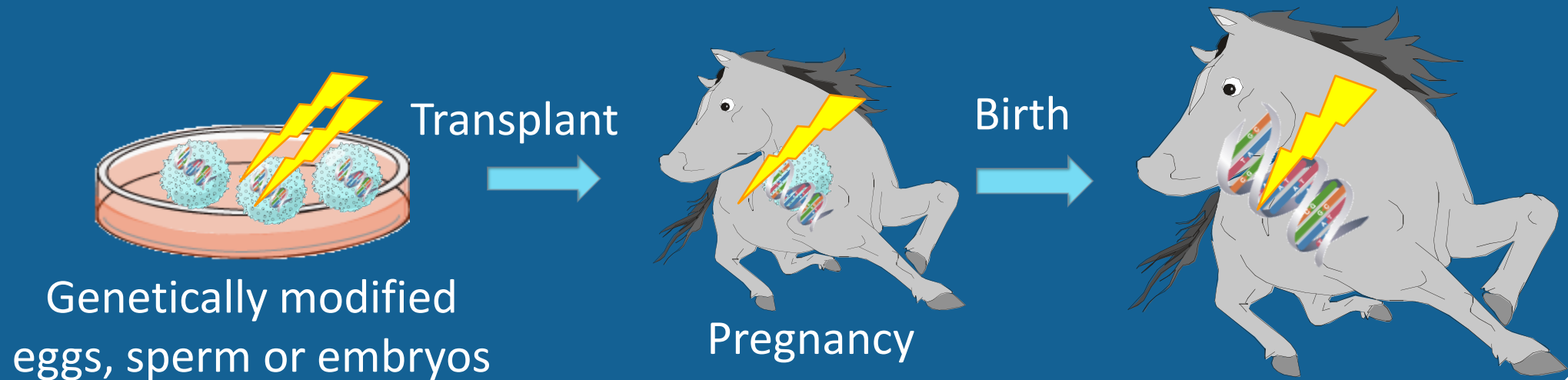


Gene Doping(Abuse of genetic therapies): The trend of the times

Analytical chemistry $\neq$ **Molecular genetics** (need new experts)

Worst case scenario of Gene doping

Gene editing/Gene transfer



Creation of a genetically modified thoroughbred at the breeding stage – changes the heritable genome

New Initiatives



Take Home Message

- ▶ The success of Japanese horseracing today owes much to the high standard of the UK horseracing
- ▶ Japan seeks to maintain and foster its collaborative efforts with the United Kingdom aimed at enhancing the horse racing industry.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

