'An invitation to look foolish' or a win the future?

By Anil Dawar
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Humans will be able to read the minds of fish, routinely have full-body tra
grow back a missing limb, and it could all happen in the next fifty years, a
world's leading scientists.

Experts across all scientific fields were asked
what they thought would be the biggest
breakthroughs in their own area of expertise
over the next half century. The list they came
up with would appear far fetched to most of
us, but they think this is how the world could
look by 2056.

The boffins also predicted that people will live
to be 100 but have the vigour of 60-year-olds,
severed spines will heal themselves and there
will be unlimited transplant organs grown
artificially.

The survey was commissioned by the New Scientist to celebrate its 50th
published today.

Ellen Heber-Katz, a professor of molecular and cellular ontogenesis, told ti
believe the day is not far off when we will be able to prescribe drugs that
cords to heal, hearts to regenerate and lost limbs to regrow.

"Advances in heart regeneration are around the corner, digits within five to ten years, and limb regeneration will occur a few
50 years whole-body replacement will be routine."

Daniel Pauly, director of the Fisheries Centre at the University of British Co
said: "I think the most important development for the oceans would be a
detect, amplify and transmit to us the emotions and fleeting, inarticulate "
in such a form as to evoke analogous emotions and thoughts in human br

"This would first work with primates, then mammals in general, then the c
including fish. This would cause, obviously, a global revulsion at eating fle
we would all become vegetarians."
Bruce Lahn, professor of the University of Chicago, one exciting breakthrough be the ability to produce a transplantable human organ need for human donors."

But Steven Pinker, Professor of Harvard University, said: "even to pretend to guess a speculate about what, hyp the biggest breakthrough 20 years.

"This is an invitation to loo