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'An invitation to look foolish' or a window into the future?

By Anil Dawar

Last Updated: 10:20am GMT 16/11/2006

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 b published today.

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

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

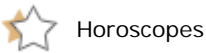
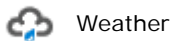
Daniel Pauly, director of the Fisheries Centre at the University of British Co said: "I think the most important development for the oceans would be a c detect, amplify and transmit to us the emotions and fleeting, inarticulate " in such a form as to evoke analogous emotions and thoughts in human br:

"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."



By 2056, scientists might b fish is thin

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Bruce Lahn, professor of h the University of Chicago, one exciting breakthrough be the ability to produce a transplantable human orga need for human donors."

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

"This is an invitation to loc

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