



Miracle cream makes humans grow new limbs

For immediate release

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Newts are small amphibians. They can grow their legs back in 40 days when they have been removed. Scientists have used this idea on humans.

Scientists have long known that humans have some of the genes needed to grow new limbs. However, these genes are only active in unborn babies during stages of rapid growth. Genes that are not active can be described as 'sleeping genes'. Scientists have discovered how to 'switch' on some of these sleeping genes in people who have lost their limbs by using DNA extracted from newts.

The newt DNA is delivered to where the limb has been removed in a revolutionary cream called 'I of Newt'. Human amputees can be cured of their condition rather like having a false limb fitted. They will be able to walk and run just as they did before they lost their limbs.

At the press conference, a scientist will answer questions on three areas of science:

- How limbs can grow back
- How liposomes found in medical creams can deliver DNA
- How newt DNA can switch on sleeping human genes

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