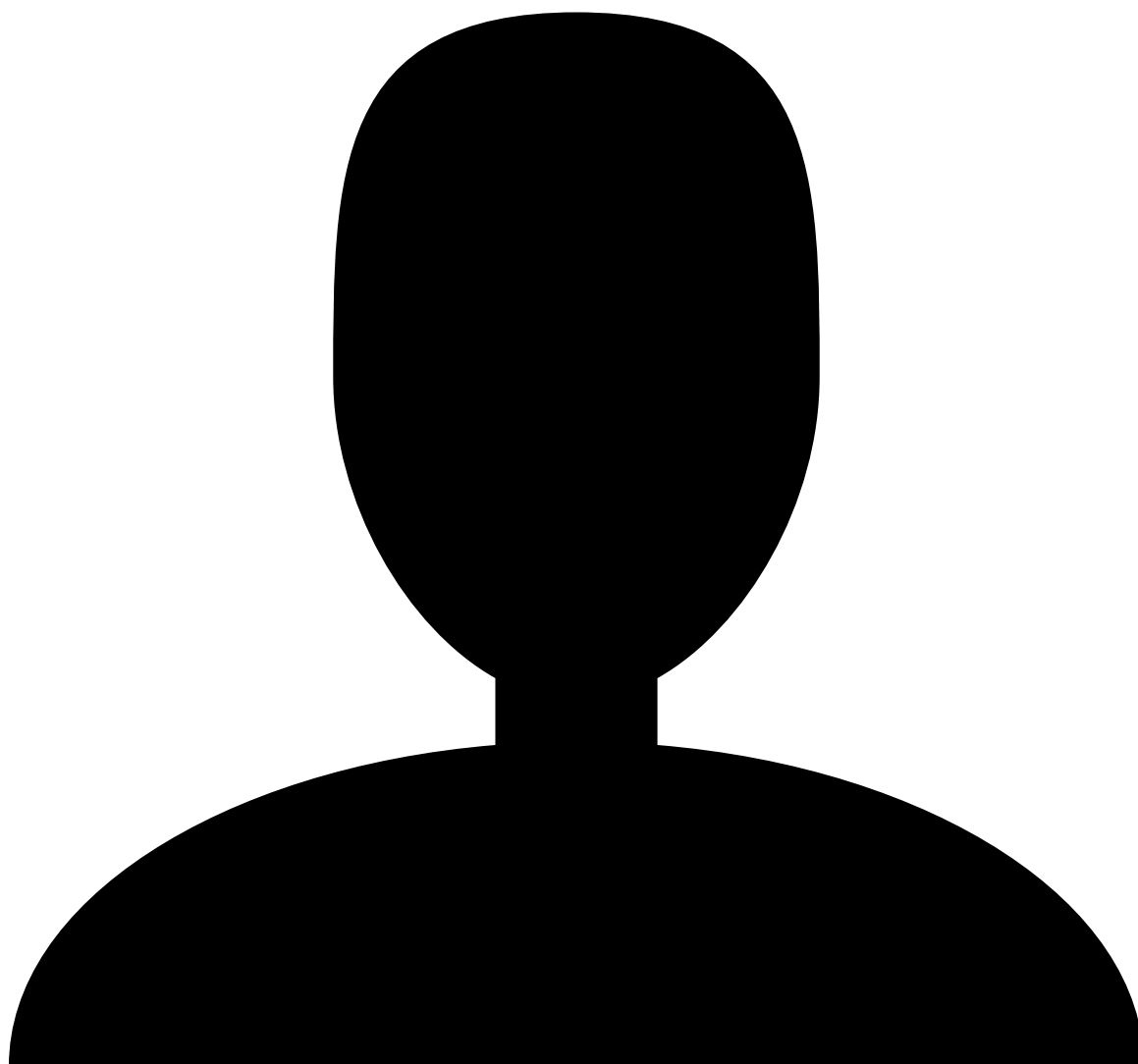


Biologist suggests growing human 'meat' in labs for consumption



Lab meat (non-human variety), also referred to as “in-vitro” or “Clean” meat, is grown from a few stem cells taken from a living creature. (iStock)

Evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins recently pushed the idea that lab-grown human meat could eliminate society’s long-standing aversion to cannibalism.

“I’ve long been looking forward to this,” the outspoken scientist tweeted. “What if human meat is grown? Could we overcome our taboo against cannibalism?”



Richard Dawkins [@RichardDawkins](#)

Tissue culture “clean meat” already in 2018? I’ve long been looking forward to this. <https://ind.pn/2F9xAwS>

What if human meat is grown? Could we overcome our taboo against cannibalism? An interesting test case for consequentialist morality versus “yuck reaction” absolutism.



Lab-grown ‘clean’ meat could be on sale by the end of 2018. Meat grown in a laboratory could be on restaurant menus by the end of the year, one manufacturer has claimed. In vitro animal products.

Dawkins went on to argue lab-grown meat could provide an interesting ethical argument — on one side, human meat produced for consumption means nothing has to die but, for most, the idea is too repulsive to consider, making it nearly impossible to attempt.

Lab meat, also referred to as “in-vitro” or “clean” meat, is grown from a few stem cells taken from a living creature. It was first consumed at a news conference in London in 2013 and was reportedly “a bit dry” by the two taste testers.

Lab-grown meat is seen by most as a hard pass. An American study published in 2017 in the journal PLOS ONE found that although about 66% of the country is willing to try clean meat, only about a third could see themselves adding it to their diets.

“On average, people see clean meat as more ethical and environmental than farmed meat, but less natural, tasty and appealing,” the study’s co-author Matti Wilks said.

The study also found vegetarians were among the least likely to consider eating meat grown in a lab — an opinion widely shared by most people who said they would never consider cannibalism, even if the meat was never part of a living person.

But perhaps in the future opinions will shift.

“I can’t imagine that people who don’t want to eat human meat now would

suddenly feel motivated to eat human meat when produced via cellular agriculture,” Wilks said. “Right now, I believe it is seen somewhat as a future technology, but once it’s tangible, I think that will change.”

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/biologist-suggests-growing-human-meat-labs-consumption-article-1.3876788>

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