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HEADLINE: Could frogs' legs help us to regrow human limbs?

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FROGS may hold the key to a breakthrough which could allow amputees to re-grow lost limbs .

The animals are being studied by scientists who are hoping to find a way to repair damaged tissue without scarring.

Although humans have this ability while in the womb, we lose it once we are born.

Frog embryos are also able to repair themselves. And the scientists have found that if they amputate a tadpole's tail it can re-grow perfectly within days.

By observing this process the team, from the University of Manchester, hopes to discover which genes are involved and find ways to switch them off or on.

They hope that this could allow them to find a way to re-grow human limbs in future. Such a development would be a major breakthrough for the 1,000 Britons who have a foot, hand, arm or leg amputated every year.

Professor **Enrique Amaya**, who led the research, said he hoped that within a generation it would lead to new treatments for amputees and those who are seriously scarred as the result of surgery or illness.

'My ultimate goal is to find treatments to deal with disfigurement that induces scarring and get scar-free healing.

'Ultimately I hope to find new ways of getting regeneration of even complex structures like limbs.'