

A man with short dark hair, wearing a white button-down shirt, is shown in profile from the chest up, looking down and to the left. The background is a plain, light gray.

闌 THE
尾 APPENDIX
人 HUMAN

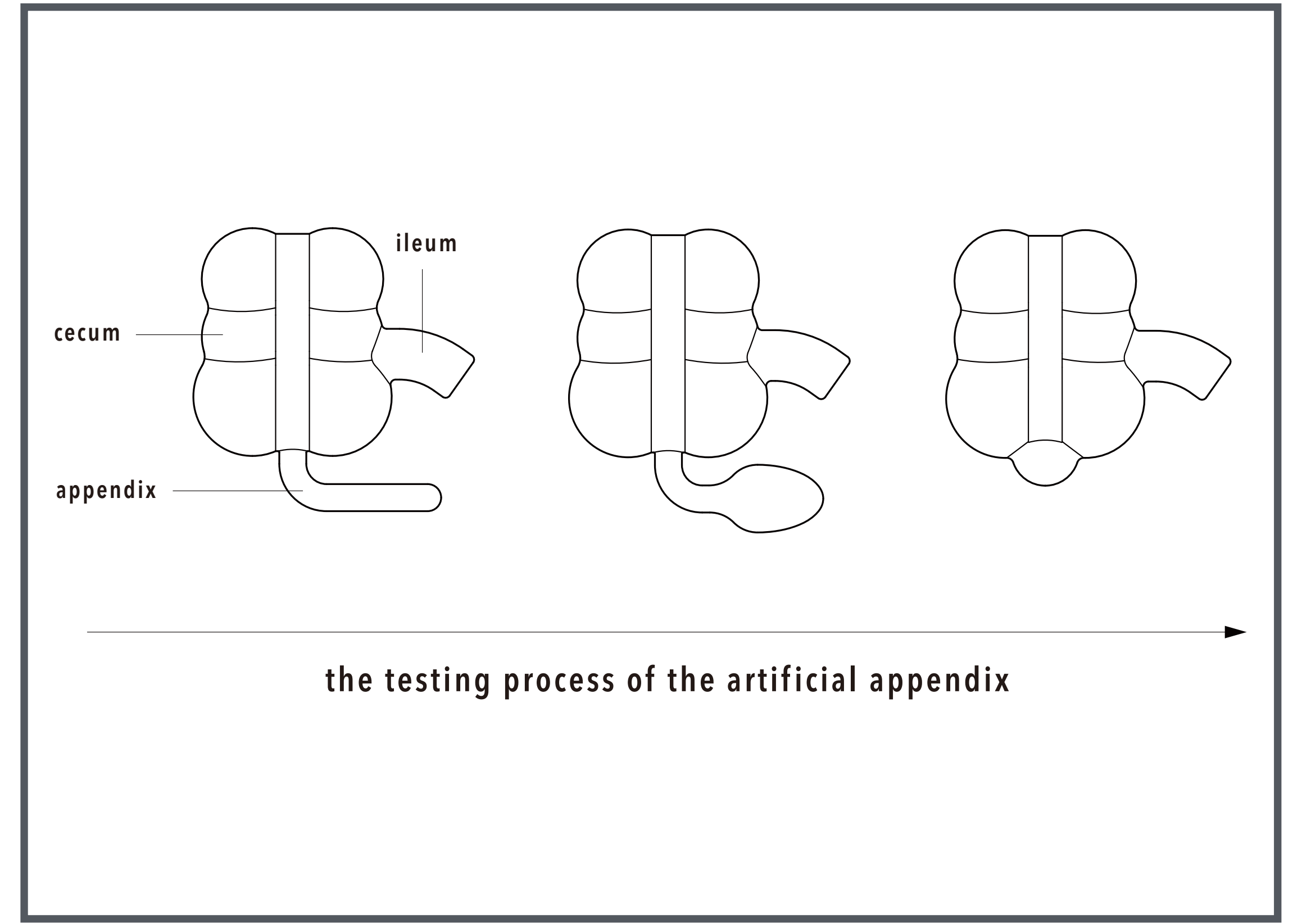
A PROJECT BY PAUL GONG

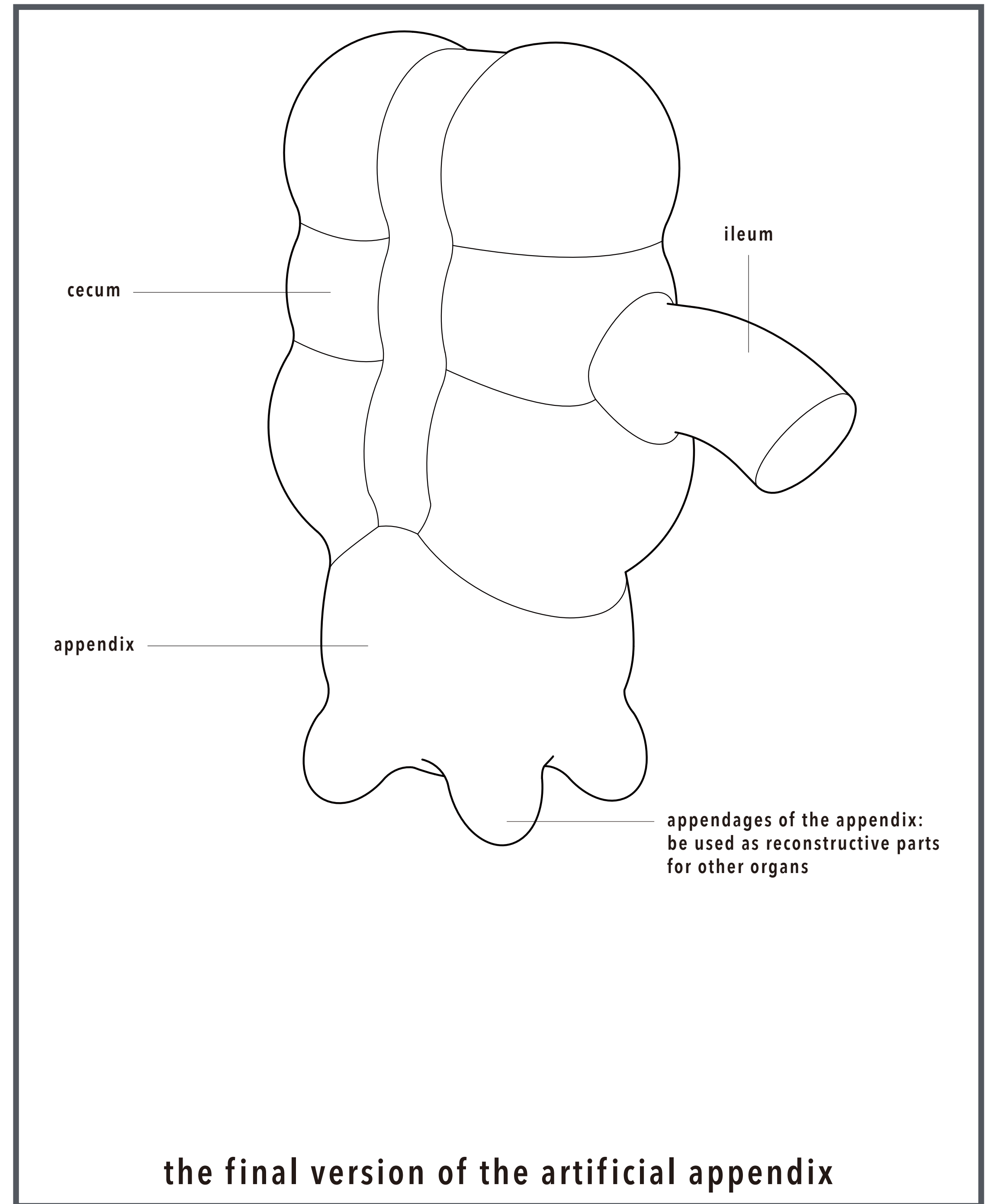
From a tiny vestigial organ to the new human



The Appendix Human

"The Appendix Human" explores and imagines one of the human vestigial organs-'appendix'. This project attempts to investigate new possibilities and new relationships with the appendix in human lives. Imagining a parallel world to explore the future possibilities of humans and appendix that may be affected by emerging technologies. Will the new appendix change the way we eat? Will the new appendix create changes in our society?







THE APPENDIX HUMAN SET MENU

STARTER

The Nature of Mugunghwa
korean rose flower, nectar and branches

MAIN COURSE

The Flesh under Sun
kurobuta pork shoulder and sunflower seeds

DESSERT

The Frozen of Sweet
beeswax cube and ice cube

A portrait of Dr. Theresa Tsun-Hui Tsao, a woman with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark jacket. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera.

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Dr. Theresa Tsun-Hui Tsao

比如說它在免疫上面可能扮演重要的角色
For example, it might be important to our immune system

**PhD of Institute for
Future Environments,
Queensland University of
Technology**

Dr. Theresa Tsun-Hui Tsao

**Biotechnology Expert
Interview Video**

Biotechnology Expert Interview

1. What are the current functions of the appendix, our vestigial organ?

For a long time, the appendix was believed to be useless. But in the last few years, scientists have discovered that it might be useful in some ways. For example, it might be important to our immune system by generating proteins like immunoglobulin A. In addition, it is a little bit like a substrate inside human body which stores and cultivates many probiotics that are useful in the intestinal environment.

2. Is it possible to modify the appendix, the vestigial organ of humans, with biotechnologies (such as synthetic biology and genetic modification) so that it can have new functions?

As far as I can see, technology keeps developing and medicine is also improving. So any human organ could be genetically modified or go through surgeries to have new functions or enhance its current functions.

3. Talking about organ modification, one way is to modify the appendix we have now. The other is to implant new bio-artificial organs (such as 3D bioprinting technology) into our bodies. Which one is more likely to succeed?


Based on the existing technologies, it is assumed that it would be simpler for implantation to change the structure and add new functions compared with genetic modification. However, whatever the means is. It cannot eliminate the subsequent butterfly effect.

4. If it is possible to modify human's appendix, how long will the adaptation period last for us to live a long life?

On one hand, it is about how long the person who has had this modification will take to adapt. It is possibly related to an individual difference and also whether the organ modified will affect many other organs or stimulate the immune system. However, putting aside all these medical adverse reactions that might happen. If it functions well without serious side effects. The person himself or herself will not experience too much difference. But if there is a new organ inside the human body. It is likely that in the daily life or society measures or changes are demanded accordingly to adapt to the human's new function.

5. Provided human will have new appendixes in the future, what is your view or assumption on a future like this?

No matter what science can do now, I think that if we can turn the appendix into an organ like the dust bag of a cleaner and as for the food we have eaten bad things will be collected by the appendix. And after it is full we can remove the appendix or clear it before putting it back. I think it will do a lot of good.

A portrait of Dr. Ying-Tung Lin, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white sleeveless top. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light gray.

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Dr. Ying-Tung Lin

另外一方面是像

While on the other hand, for instance

**Assistant Professor of
Institute of Philosophy
of Mind and Cognition,
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Dr. Ying-Tung Lin

**Philosophy Expert
Interview Video**

Philosophy Expert Interview

1. Will humans experience different psychological states after their inner organs had some changes?

I think it has a lot to do with the organ type. Let me give you three examples: In the case of the brain or other similar organs by changing it, you can directly change how you feel and think. While on the other hand, for instance. In the case of the reproductive organ, both our society and culture see such organs closely related to our self-identification. So I think it will also bring about big changes. As for the appendix, it is mainly about how our society sees the role of it.

2. If the modified organ, which is a vestige, gets new functions, will the person have the feeling that he or she is made to evolve?

I think it depends on the function modified falls into which category. Does the whole human society or in a social context regard it as a core function? For example, people attach great importance to a long life span or health or intelligence or losing weight, etc. If it is not the functions mentioned above, I think it might depend on how people see this function and its value may be different to different people

3. Would people with modifications think or behave differently?

My answer is yes. But this impact is not necessarily caused by the function itself. But more important is that there is a change like this how I see such changes happening to myself? When I am changed? Psychologically speaking, I may see myself as a more advanced person or someone who is better at adapting to environments. Therefore, I believe the change is more of psychological effects.

4. Provided human will have new appendixes in the future, what is your view or assumption on a future like this?

In my opinion, a future like that compared with how we thought about our bodies would possibly show us a new model. The difference lies between the old and new models is that. In the past, when we thought about our bodies what we focused on was if we felt well or not. I felt there was something wrong about my body. But in the future, the more possible way is Body Hacking. Which is what I believe to be a more scientific way or subjectively scientific way to see if your organ is well functioning in a certain way. This is not a whole process nor closely related to personal feelings. It is about that we are depending more and more on science to try to understand our bodies. To some degree, it goes more and more indirect. But one thing is becoming more and more visible which is that you can directly modify your body based on your own needs



The Appendix Human Monologue and Performance Video

The Appendix Human Monologue

After that surgery, actually my wound healed quickly. And just by looking, you can hardly tell where the scar is. After having a new appendix, in fact, there are not many physical changes. But some friends would think, some friends feel like that my lifestyle is somewhat different. It is possible because I have changed some habits. At least what is sure is that my doctor told me that I am free from worrying if my appendix would get infected because the rate was near zero. Therefore I am able not to worry about this little problem that could be easily ignored. So in my daily life, actually I am very happy because I could have more kinds of foods and no longer need to eat, no longer have to be limited to those highly processed foods. I could live in a more natural way just like animals, I can start to eat authentic plant fibers and taste the original flavor of foods. As for such changes, I enjoy them a lot.

But now, actually, the environment is suffering from industrialization or pollution. My new appendix, in fact, could help me to adapt to such surroundings and survive in this situation. Because my immunity and intestinal probiotics have become stronger. So even in the face of polluted foods, I am also not so worried about it. I can live a free life, I think this me with a new appendix would be an interesting existence. Because of the appendix, an organ that is often ignored and ignored its function. In the past, this organ was often ignored or forgot.

Its function is changed by the new technology due to the new changes caused by technology, I am enabled to better adapt to this new environment changed by us.

Therefore, I think to have a new vestigial organ is not a radical action. Instead, I have tried to embrace such technologies, I hope I can embrace technology by doing this. To embrace what we inherently have; To embrace what we had. And to face what we have created this unknown future. I am not afraid because I am not alone when facing this but we all are.



The Appendix Human at ACT Festival 2019 - Food Hack

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Scientific Experts: Dr. Theresa Tsun-Hui Tsao, Dr. Ying-Tung Lin

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Food Model Artist: Taiwan Saikyo Sample Limited Company

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Line Producer: Lin Wei-Lung

Editor: Pan Yen-An Camera: Lin Wei-Lung, Pan Yen-An, Chang Neng-Chen

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Exhibition Photography: Sarah Kim (ACC.ACI)

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