ATHENA desktop human “body” reduces need for animal drug tests

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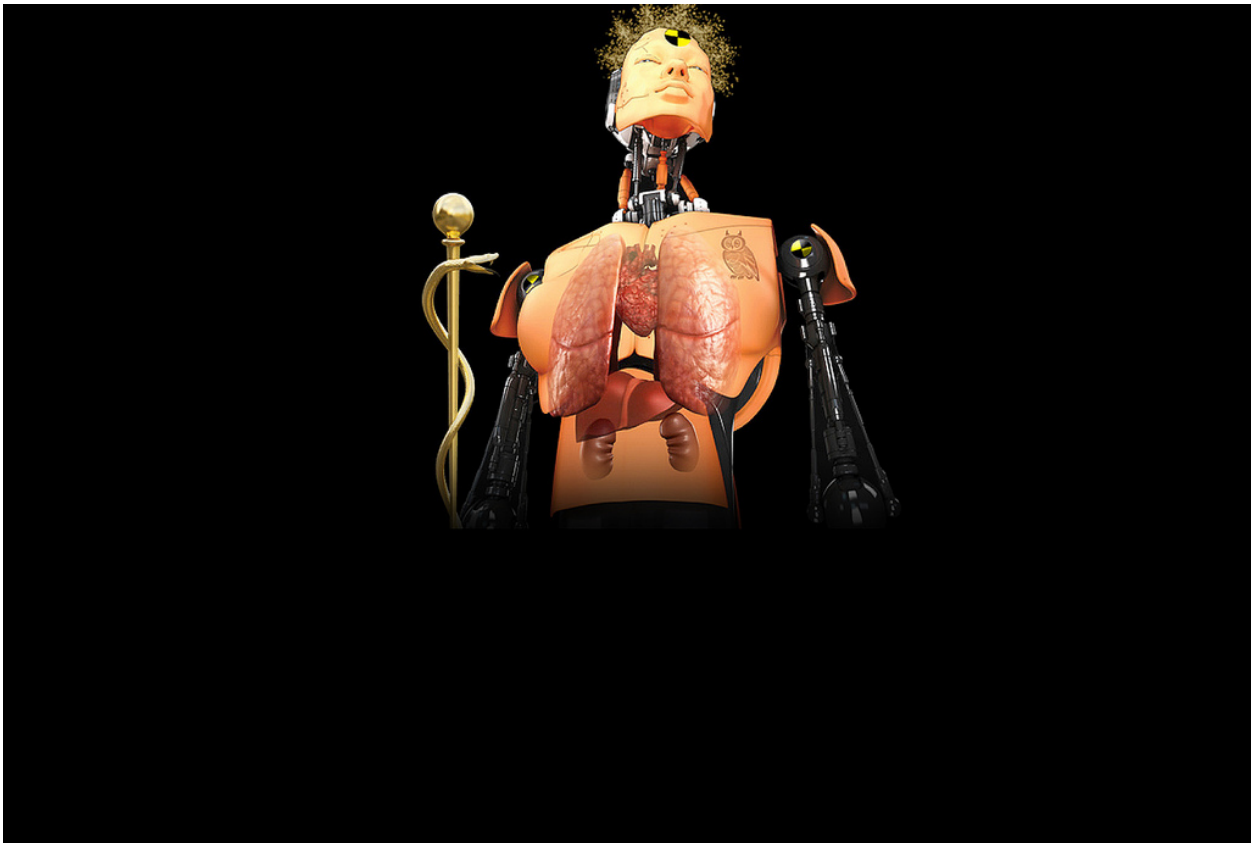

ATHENA desktop human “body” reduces need for animal drug tests

Creation of surrogate human organs could revolutionize the way biologists and medical personnel screen new drugs or toxic agents.

ATHENA, the Advanced Tissue-engineered Human Ectypal Network Analyzer project team, is developing four human organ constructs—liver, heart, lung and kidney—that are based on a significantly miniaturized platform.

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ATHENA, the Desktop Human “Body”

Each organ component will be about the size of a smartphone screen, and the whole ATHENA “body” of interconnected organs would fit neatly on a desk.

The holistic dynamic system more realistically mimics the human physiological environment than static human cells in a dish, demonstrating chemical effects on human organs as never before.

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