

First human head transplant set in motion as Russian man volunteers

Italian neuroscientist Dr. Sergio Canavero made headlines [in 2015] when he announced his plans to perform the [first human head transplant](#) in 2017. Since then, he's recruited Chinese surgeon Dr. Xiaoping Ren to work with him, and now has found a volunteer patient for the procedure: a Russian man named Valery Spiridonov.

Spiridonov suffers from Werdnig-Hoffmann Disease, a rare and often fatal genetic disorder that breaks down muscles and kills nerve cells....

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"Removing all the sick parts but the head would do a great job in my case," Spiridonov [said]... "I couldn't see any other way to treat myself."

Many scientists have spoken out against Canavero and Ren's plans, accusing them of [promoting junk science](#) and creating false hopes. One critic went so far as to say the scientists should be charged with murder if the patient dies, a very likely outcome.

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Canavero has said the transplant...would have a "90 percent plus" chance of success.

Yet many in the scientific community strongly disagree.

"It is both rotten scientifically and lousy ethically," [stated] Arthur Caplan....

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Russian man volunteers for first human head transplant](#)