

How close are we to developing pig-to-human organ transplants?

October 21 2022, by Christopher D. Shea



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In a new article published Oct. 13 in the journal *Science*, Megan Sykes, the Michael J. Friedlander Professor of Medicine and professor of microbiology and immunology and surgical sciences (in surgery) and

director of Columbia's Center for Translational Immunology, describes the rapid advance of pig-to-human transplants, a promising solution for the ongoing problem of transplant organ shortages.

"Over 100,000 people in the U.S. are currently waiting for [organ transplants](#)," Sykes writes in the piece. "Because the human organ donor pool cannot keep pace with this demand, many patients die without receiving the life-saving transplant they need."

But, she notes, the long-awaited technology appears to be on the brink of breakthrough: "Several developments in the past year, most notably the first pig-to-human transplants, bring this promising solution closer to fruition," although challenges remain.

More information: Megan Sykes, Developing pig-to-human organ transplants, *Science* (2022). [DOI: 10.1126/science.abo7935](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abo7935)

Provided by Columbia University

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