

I AM A MACHINE!

Lately, there has been a lot of investigation in smart prosthesis and implant development—technology capable of executing human bodily functions, resolving health issues, or improving our capacities. These prostheses allow people that lost a body part like a leg or an arm, or that suffer other kind of issues, like diabetes, to replicate their previous activity.

This is not a new idea though; do you remember stories with pirates using hooks and peg legs? We have tried to resolve these issues for a long time with whatever we had available. But now, technological advances are allowing us to go even further.

Hugh Herr, also known as the *Bionic Man*, lost both legs in a terrible hiking accident. Not long after, he was again able to take part in his favourite sport thanks to intelligent prosthesis that, not only replicated the functionality of normal legs, but had characteristics that are non-existent in human beings, such as adjustable height or titanium tips. These improvements made him an even more skilled hiker than he was before.



What's the difference between the bionic man and a pirate with a peg leg?

AT WHAT POINT DO WE BECOME CYBORGS?

A cyborg is a creature formed by living matter and electronic devices that improve their capacities. There are some very extreme cases of cyborgs, but it's not always that clear what could be counted as one. If a cyborg incorporates technological devices to increase their skills, then, can we say that if someone has always a telephone with them to remember phone numbers is also a cyborg? After all, it's a way to augment their skills and modify their behaviour!

GUESS: REALITY OR FICTION?

A

NEIL HARBISSE



Was born with achromatopsia, which means, he sees the world in a grey with no colours. That's why he got an antenna installed in his head that allows him to listen to colours through vibrations. He's able to differentiate between more than 300 colours—even infrareds and ultraviolets that are not perceivable by the human eye.

B

ROBOCOP



A police officer from Detroit, Alex James Murphy, better known as *RoboCop*, had armoured body parts and other technologies to increase his strength and perceptive abilities, with the objective to protect and serve the law in a more effective way.

C

ROB SPENCE



A filmmaker and lover of documentaries known as *Eyeborg*. He lost an eye when he was young and replaced it with a camera with which he recorded movies.

D

MOON RIBAS



This dancer implanted seismic sensors in her arm that to feel every earthquake on earth through vibrations on real time. That way she can better feel the movements of the earth.

E

MOLLY MILLIONS



She works as a bodyguard. Among other things, she installed retracting blades in her nails through a precision surgery, so she always has a weapon on her. William Gibson made her the main character in some of his novels where Molly is a samurai cyborg.

F

INSPECTOR GADGET



The police inspector was famous for his bionic implants. The gadget ears, consisting of small cones that could be activated to hear better, his extendable arms, and the gadget phone, an implant in his hand!