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Study: A Light Side to Bacon

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A group of scientists, including a professor at Harvard Medical School, announced researc that could lead to every fast-food addict's dream: healthy bacon.

Researchers from the University of Missouri, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, a School say that they had successfully cloned five pigs implanted with a gene that caused Omega-3 fatty acids, which have been linked to a reduced risk of heart disease.

The new research could mean that ham-lovers will be eating beneficial Omega-3s in addit and saturated fats that are associated with pork.

Omega-3s are normally found in oily fish, such as salmon and tuna, but some concerns su and lead levels in fish.

"People can continue to eat their junk food," said Alexander Leaf, an emeritus professor o Harvard. "You won't have to change your diet, but you will be getting what you need."

A number of obstacles remain before the research can move from the lab to the supermar

Scientists are still uncertain as to whether Omega-3s will have the same benefits when ea

And Jing X. Kang, an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and lead said that the level of Omega-3s in the pigs is not as high as it is in fish, and that several ye may be required to produce pigs with sufficient Omega-3 levels.

The project may also face opposition from consumer groups opposed to eating genetically far, the federal Food and Drug Administration has not approved cloned animals for consur several years before healthier bacon appears on the market, according to Kang.

While other many animals have been cloned, none have been designed to produce Omeg

Kang and his collaborative research group plan to expand the project to eventually include chickens.

"As people realize the importance of Omega-3s, our product will easily be accepted since themselves are naturally occurring," explained Kang. The cloned pigs, Kang said, "don't s