

How To Die Young at A Very Old Age

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Aging has a biology and this biology can be targeted as shown in many pre-clinical models. Targeting the biology of aging extends health span as well as may extend life span. We studied families of centenarians and have discovered functional variants that allowed them to live healthier for longer. Some of those discoveries have already been developed into medications.

As we start developing drugs to target aging, it is important to realize that regulatory bodies across the world, such as the FDA, do not recognize aging as a target. That means that health care providers will not pay for a drug and that pharmaceuticals will not develop drugs that do not have a business horizon. Our approach as scientists is demonstrated by creating the TAME trial (Targeting Aging with Metformin), how a single drug can delay many aspects of aging. In agreement with FDA on the outcomes of the study and depending on positive results, the study is being launched and we are convinced that next-generation drugs and combinations will extend health span and lifespan.