

The Likelihood and Consequences of “Living to 100”

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Abstract

There is a common belief that it would be a universal good to discover how to slow or stop the aging process in humans. It guides the research of many biogerontologists, the course of some health policy leaders and the hopes of a substantial fraction of humanity.

Yet, the outcome of achieving this goal is rarely addressed despite the fact that it would have profound consequences that would affect virtually every human institution.

In this essay, I discuss the impact on human life if a means were found to slow our aging process, thus permitting a life expectancy suggested by the title of this conference, "Living to 100." It is my belief that most of the consequences would not benefit either the individual or society.