

Rejuvenation biotechnology:

When the days of aging are clearly numbered, how will humanity react?

Aubrey D.N.J. de Grey, Ph.D.

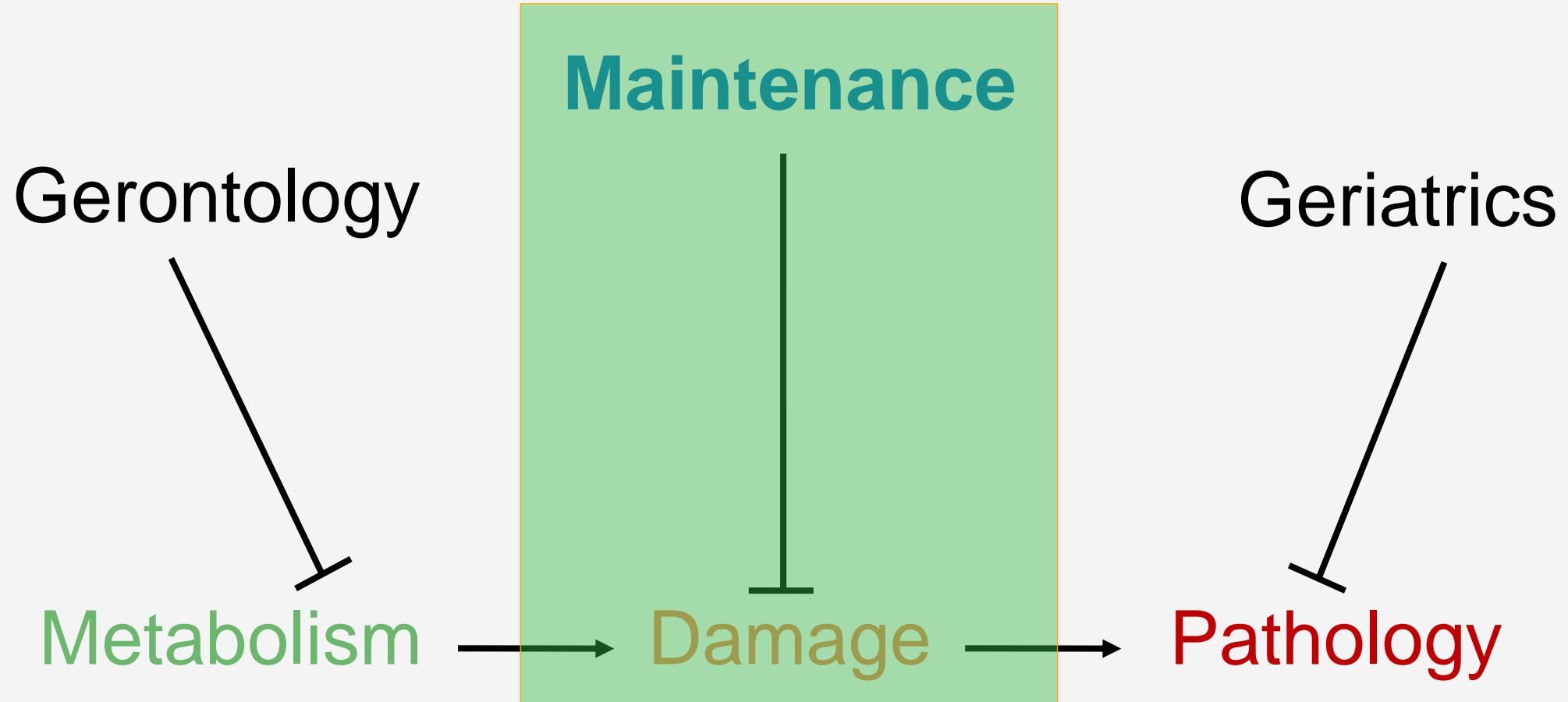
Chief Science Officer

SENS Research Foundation

aubrey@sens.org

<http://www.sens.org/>

Maintenance: targeting damage



Claim: unlike the others, the maintenance approach can deliver a big extension of human healthy lifespan quite soon

Key SENS goal: human aging near-term

- “Robust Human Rejuvenation” (RHR)
- Treat people aged >60
- Add 30 years of healthy life
- Do it by repairing damage

Interim goal: mouse aging near-term

- “Robust Mouse Rejuvenation” (RMR)
- Treat mice aged 2
- Add 2 years of healthy life
- Convinces people RHR is imminent

Long-term goal: human aging bootstrap

- “Longevity Escape Velocity” (LEV)
- Make therapies more&more thorough
- Re-rejuvenate people periodically
- Stay one step ahead of the problem

My biggest advocacy surprise

- To me, RHR virtually ensures LEV
- HUGE resistance to this conclusion
- “Not scientific” (so won’t happen??)
- Preference for modest goals (why??)

Might we be in for another surprise?

- Does RMR ensure RHR fairly soon?
- **No**: far less certain than $RHR \Rightarrow LEV$
- Best case: sub-RMR gives tipping point
- Worst case: resistance persists

Why is this already really important?

- RMR is probably 6-8 years away
- If RMR would very heavily enhance public enthusiasm, we should prioritise it over what the science recommends
- Educating the world is a glacial process

Three huge facets of this issue

- Culture
- Risk
- Economics

Culture

- Eastern cultures supposedly have a greater “respect for the elderly”
- But...
- It’s the wrong sort of respect! – it heightens resistance to “medicalising” of aging

Risk

- Preventative medicine is a really, really hard sell
- Combinatorial med is a hard sell too: doctors like to keep things simple

Economics

- Visionaries need to make others envious, in order to make change popular
- Preferably quickly, by making money
- That needs a critical mass of early adopters
- It also needs them to make others envious
- **How can we ensure that they exist in time?**

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