

Preface

Aging, involving a complex array of systemic changes over time, has entered the spotlight of biological research, mainly due to the dramatic increase in life expectancy worldwide. The trends of population aging, accompanied by the rapid improvements in research tools and capabilities, have promoted the research of aging to the prominent position it occupies today. Nonetheless, until recently the major efforts in research of aging have been dedicated to sociological, behavioral, clinical and nursing aspects of aging, as those aspects were perceived as having immediate significance for healthcare and its costs. Less effort and resources were allocated to studies of biological aging processes, in particular the genetics of aging, despite their tremendous importance for the development of age-related disabilities and diseases and thus causing the healthcare burden in the first place.

Despite the diminished focus compared to other fields of aging research, the genetic research of aging is a rapidly growing field with a tremendous potential for developing future treatments. There are strong grounds to expect that highlighting aging-related gene function may suggest interventions to delay or even prevent the development of aging-associated diseases, disability and mortality. Thus, this research will not only further our understanding of the complexity of aging processes, but will have far-reaching, long-term practical significance for global healthcare and economy. In this book, we have reviewed some of the major and most current efforts in the research of genetics of aging.

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Gil Atzmon, PhD

Longevity Genes

A Blueprint for Aging

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