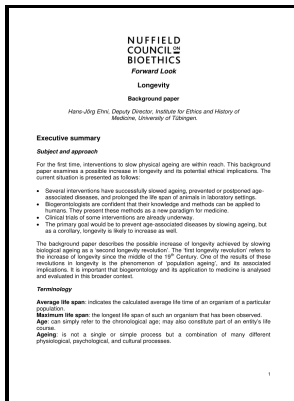


Ageless quest - one scientists search for genes that prolong youth

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press - Nonfiction Book Review: **AGELESS QUEST: One Scientist's Search for Genes that Prolong Youth** by Leonard Guarente, Author, Lenny Guarente, Author . Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory \$19.95 (168p) ISBN 978



Description: -

- Aging -- Molecular aspects

Aging -- Genetic aspects
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As the enzyme requires NAD, high levels of which may indicate that cellular nutrient supplies are low, it would probably be most active when energy is in short supply. Ageless Quest, although having this appearance, is an interesting exception, because it is written by a scientist at the peak of his powers. Kennedy and Austriaco found that different yeast strains aged at characteristically different rates.

Ageless Quest: One Scientist's Search for the Genes That Prolong Youth

The SIR2 gene therefore acts to promote the survival of the yeast. In the study, the researchers also confirmed the results with a genetic test: They showed that *skn-1* genes expressed only in these two cells support dietary-restriction longevity; without the genes, the longevity increase on dietary restriction disappeared. The original mutation had resulted in over- rather than under-activity of SIR2.

The Leonard Guarente lab at MIT

Indeed, can the concept of 'ageing' be applied at all to a creature that reproduces simply by splitting in two? In a recent issue of , Leonard P. The common features of ageing are a decline in fecundity and increased vulnerability to death during adulthood. The deacetylase Sir2 has been shown to occupy a pivotal position at this basic level of physiological control, presumably acting as a relay station between the genome and the metabolic status of the organism.

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Guarente suggests that the first commercial products based on manipulating Sir2 to slow aging will appear in the next 10 to 20 years. The author

writes with the clarity of a first-class journalist, an infectious enthusiasm and an eye for the revealing anecdote.

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