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Proteostasis Breakdown: Cell Ageing and Death

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We show a result of slower translation and accumulated oxidative damage, proteostasis, or the folding, chaperoning, and preservation of protein function collapses with age. With time, irreversibly damaged proteins accumulate, distracting chaperones from folding the healthy proteins the cell need. When the rate of replacement of excellent proteins can no longer keep up with the rate of depletion caused by misfolding, aggregation, and damage, the organism dies. Life duration shortens nonlinearly with increased temperature or added oxidant concentration in the worm Caenorhabditis elegans, while life span increases in mutants with more chaperones or proteasomes, according to the model. It accounts for the Gompertz like rising in mortality seen in humans and other creatures by predicting increases in cellular oxidative damage with age. Overall, the model demonstrates how protein instability influences the rate at which damage accumulates with age, upsetting the cell's regular proteostasis equilibrium. Cells in higher organisms age and perish as a result of natural processes. The responsible molecular mechanism is most cellular macromolecules are affected by ageing, its proven difficult to separate causes from consequences. The role of oxidative damage is well understood. Much of what we know about cellular ageing comes from "bottom-up" investigations, which include perturbing a few genes at a time with knockouts, knock-ins, or point mutations, or utilizing sequence databases to compare genes to genes. The "top-down" question of the ageing mechanism, which we believe to be a more system-wide failure in the cell, is of particular concern to us. A single gene cannot stop the ageing process or extend one's life span. Regardless of the type of biomolecule or its spatial position in the cell, oxidative damage is indiscriminate and nonspecific. We believe that ageing and lifespan are caused by widespread and stochastic destruction rather than a single action. There are numerous theories about cell ageing. Some hypotheses are gene-centric, emphasizing the impact of accumulating harmful mutations to DNA over time. Mutations and the steady shortening of telomeres are examples of such changes. Other ideas focus on how changes to DNA and DNA-binding proteins alter how genes are read, such as epigenetics. DNA methylation, histone modification, and chromosomal organization loss are all examples of these modifications. Furthermore, alterations in histone stoichiometry and severe depletion of histone levels could affect transcription factor binding. Such changes could be to blame for the ageing-related loss of appropriate messenger RNA and protein stoichiometry. Another theory is that ageing is caused by deterioration of protein quality-control systems involved in protein synthesis, degradation, and chaperoning, which are responsible for protecting the proteins in the cell's proteome. The decline in protein quality control, which is central to proteostasis, has been linked to more than 50 diseases characterised by abnormal protein deposition (proteinopathies), the main risk factor for which is advancing age, "probably because cell regulation and protein production and disposal become increasingly compromised with age.

"Proteostasis is a natural cause of ageing since it is the first line of defence against stress and because proteins are the cell's primary repairers and maintainers." All known gerontogenes confer stress resistance," according to the researchers. Protein oxidation is a better predictor of radiation survival than DNA damage, so protein damage is a key measure of such resistance. Protein damage can result in a loss of stability and function, as well as difficulties with protein synthesis and degradation. Protein damage is only one of many changes that affect the proteome as people get older, but it is a significant factor. We're interested in the cell-wide biophysics of how proteins fold, the effects of temperature and oxidation, and how proteostasis deteriorates with age, rather than the genetics and biochemistry of any particular gene or protein. Proteostasis models in the past have generally focused on the mechanism of heat-shock activation or the mechanisms through which chaperone systems promote folding. Others have sought wider principles that determine folding yield or how folding and degradation are partitioned. While these investigations have contributed to a better

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understanding of protein properties upstream of damage, their downstream properties and effects have received less attention. Our simulations look at the impact of protein conformation on oxidizability, as well as the role of damaged proteins in diverting scarce chaperone resources away from their undamaged counterparts' folding. In the worm C. elegans, we show how proteostasis diminishes with age. The concept explains two remarkable experimental observations, namely, that when worms are reared in heat or with an additional oxidant, their life span reduces by two orders of magnitude. Most crucially, the model explains how this reliance arises from well-known protein-folding kinetics and oxidant targeting of nonnative protein conformations. As a result, one of the most notable aspects of ageing the nonlinear increase in death rate with age has a mechanism, known as Gompertz Law. The amount of irreversibly damaged proteins is expected to increase as people become older, diverting chaperones from folding the healthy proteins that the cell requires. When the rate of replacement of excellent proteins is no longer able to keep up with the rate of loss due to damage and aggregation, the organism dies. In comparison to the unrelenting barrage of damage, the increasing ageing of the proteome is considered as a direct result of slower protein synthesis and turnover.