

Old age is programmed in human embryos

In 1961, two biologists named Leonard Hayflick and Paul Moorehead discovered that old age is built into our cells. At the time, many scientists believed that if healthy human cells were put in a flask with a steady supply of nutrients, they would multiply forever. But when Dr. Hayflick and Dr. Moorehead reared fetal human cells, that's not what they found. Time and again, their cells would divide about 50 times and then simply stop.

The last place you would expect to find senescent cells would be at the very start of life. But now three teams of scientists are reporting doing just that. For the first time, they have found senescent cells in embryos, and they have offered evidence that senescence is crucial to proper development.

Read the full, original story here: [Signs of Aging, Even in the Embryo](#)

Additional Resources:

- "[Aging erodes genetic control, but that's flexible](#)," Phys.Org
- "[Balancing Act: Cell Senescence, Aging Related to Epigenetic Changes](#)," ScienceDaily