

Gene therapy may reverse age-related hearing loss

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

For many people, hearing tends to go with age as the mechanisms in the inner ear that detect sound degenerate — a simple fact researchers at Rockefeller University say they may be able [to reverse](#). In a study published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, study author Ksenia Gnedeva says researchers may have located proteins inside the ear that can possibly be turned on later in life to produce new cells and correct any hearing loss caused by time, damage or abnormalities.

“Our ultimate goal is to find a target that would allow us to restore hair cells later on in life,” Gnedeva said, according to *NeuroScience News*. “It appears possible that these proteins, or perhaps other steps in the same pathway, might be potential targets.”

Hair cells found within the inner ear are responsible for hearing and balance in humans, as well as lab mice and other animals. When those cells are damaged or stop producing new hair cells, the result is a loss of those functions.

When Gnedeva and her team turned on the proteins within the mice ears, new hair cells began forming.

Read full, original post: [Scientists Just Discovered Genes in the Inner Ear That Can Restore Hearing](#)