

## Possible genetic mechanism for aging identified

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

Scientists at the University of Georgia have shown that a hormone instrumental in the aging process is under genetic control, introducing a new pathway by which genetics regulates aging and disease.

Previous studies have found that [blood levels](#) of this hormone, growth differentiation factor 11, decrease over time. Restoration of GDF11 reverses cardiovascular aging in old mice and leads to muscle and brain rejuvenation, a discovery that was listed as one of the top 10 breakthroughs in science in 2014.

Scientists in the UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences have now discovered that [levels](#) of this hormone are determined by genetics, representing another potential mechanism by which aging is encoded in the genome.

Future studies will seek to reveal why GDF11 levels decrease later in life and whether they can be sustained to prevent disease.

“Finding that GDF11 levels are under [genetic control](#) is of significant interest. Since it is under genetic control, we can find the genes responsible for GDF11 levels and its changes with [age](#),” said the study’s senior author Rob Pazdro, an assistant professor in the college’s department of foods and nutrition.

**Read full, original post:** [Researchers make link between genetics, aging](#)