

## Can gene therapy reverse aging?

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

In September 2015, [Elizabeth] Parrish [CEO of [BioViva](#)], then 44, flew to Colombia to receive two experimental gene therapies. One was a myostatin inhibitor, a drug that is being tested as a treatment for muscle loss. The other was a telomerase gene therapy – the drug that BioViva claims has reversed her cells' biological age, by lengthening parts of her genetic material called telomeres.

The treatment is highly controversial. Because BioViva had not done the necessary pre-clinical work to progress to human studies, the US Food and Drug Administration did not authorise Parrish's experiment...

"Perhaps she is patient zero, but only for the spread of the pseudoscience that's going to grow from her story," says [Timothy Caulfield](#), a professor in the Faculty of Law and the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta..."People forget that most clinical trials don't pan out," he says. "Drugs often look really promising in mice but don't pan out in people – they're different animals."

But Parrish...argues that enough animal studies have been conducted to move to humans.

**Read full, original post:** [Can this woman cure ageing with gene therapy?](#)