

Anti-aging pill? Scientists study drug's ability to rejuvenate older immune cells

Can a pill make you younger?

One of the few drug studies ever carried out in an attempt to address this question was reported by Novartis on Christmas Eve 2014. The company had sought to see whether giving low doses of a drug called everolimus to people over 65 increased their response to flu vaccines.

It did, by about 20 percent. Yet behind the test was a bigger question about whether any drug can slow or reverse the symptoms of old age. Novartis's study on everolimus, which looked at whether the immune system of elderly people could be made to act younger, has been called the "[first human aging trial](#)."

...Boston company, PureTech Health, [said](#) it was licensing two drug molecules, and the right to use them against aging-related disease, from Novartis and making the research the basis of a startup company, resTORbio. The company says it will further test whether such drugs can rejuvenate aged immune cells.

The drug Novartis tested is a derivative of rapamycin, a compound [first discovered oozing from a bacterium native to Easter Island](#), or Rapa Nui, and named after it. Thanks to its broad effects on the immune system, rapamycin has already been used in transplant medicine as an immune suppressant and a version is sold by Novartis as the anticancer prescription Afinitor.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Is This the Anti-Aging Pill We've All Been Waiting For?](#)

For more background on the Genetic Literacy Project, read [GLP](#) on Wikipedia.