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Part V

General Discussion

In this thesis, my various co-authors and I have explored the limitations of evolutionary theories of aging, and have tried to overcome those limitations or to find a way of viewing and formalizing the matter in a (more) proper and complete way. Theories and models are characterized by what they *do not* take into account, their limitations, as much as by what they *do* take into account. A few limitations of the theories and models discussed in this thesis deserve special mentioning. Not all limitations have been mentioned so far, and not all are overcome in this thesis. Both these limitations and the new insights that I hope this thesis contains lead the way to future areas of research, outlined at the end of this discussion.