

Propositions accompanying the thesis

MEASURING SENESENCE IN HUMAN POPULATIONS

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1. Biological interpretations of mathematical models always need to be tested empirically (this thesis).
2. A population's senescence rate should not be measured from the relative, but rather from the absolute increase in its mortality rate over age (this thesis).
3. Separating intrinsic and extrinsic mortality is circular reasoning (this thesis).
4. Diseases attributed to senescence are rather attributable to lifestyle (this thesis).
5. Populations can senesce at similar rates, but meanwhile in different ways (this thesis).
6. The study, prevention, and treatment of senescence is hampered by ignorance and disagreement about its nature. Senescence can consist of non-programmed hypofunction as well as quasi-programmed hyperfunction (Blagosklonny, *Cell Cycle* 2006; 5: 2087-2102).
7. Senescence and disease do not fundamentally differ (Izaks & Westendorp, *BMC Geriatr.* 2003; 3: 7; Holliday, *J. Gerontol. Ser. A Biol. Sci. Med. Sci.* 2004; 59: 543-546; Caplan, *EMBO Rep.* 2005; 6: s72-s75; Masoro in Masoro & Austad, *Handbook of the Biology of Aging* 2006: 43-62).
8. Attempts of researchers and clinicians to avoid senescence do not serve the proper purpose of medicine (Callahan, *Hastings Cent. Rep.* 1994; 24: 39-41; Meilaender, *Should we live forever?* 2013).
9. They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick (Mark 2: 17).
10. The publication process of 'peer review' slows rather than encourages the progress of science (Bohannon, *Science* 2013; 342: 60-65; Hopewell et al., *BMJ* 2014; 349: G4145).
11. When researchers from western countries set out for studies in developing populations, both parties have responsibilities to organise, facilitate, and execute such studies in a collaboration on equivalent terms (Ebrahim et al., *PLoS Med.* 2013; 10: E1001377; Chu et al., *PLoS Med.* 2014; 11: E1001612).
12. The only effective, efficient, and enduring type of developmental aid is financial support of professional training of socioeconomically deprived youth (Professor Gbas Foundation).