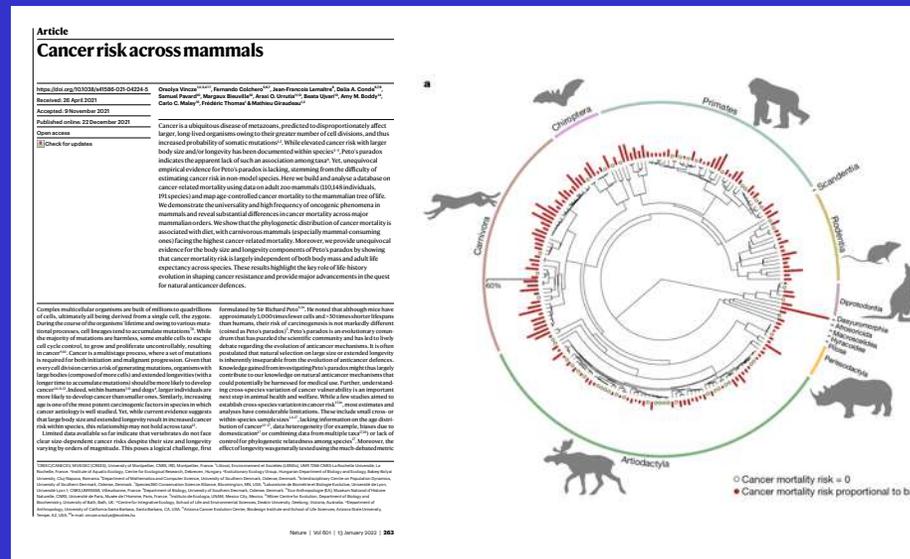




# Welche Säugetiere entwickeln Krebs ?

## Erkenntnisse aus (globalen) Zoo-Daten



# Marcus Clauss

Zürich, Biologie und Erkrankungen der Wildtiere 13.12.2022



University of Zurich UZH



Clinic of Zoo Animals, Exotic Pets and Wildlife



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# Which mammals get cancer ?

Insights from (global) zoo data



Marcus Clauss

Zürich, Biologie und Erkrankungen der Wildtiere 13.12.2022



University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>



Clinic  
of Zoo Animals, Exotic Pets and Wildlife



1. The first part of the text discusses the importance of the zoo in the context of conservation and education. It mentions that the zoo is a place where people can learn about different species and their habitats, and that it plays a crucial role in protecting endangered animals. The text also highlights the zoo's role in providing a safe and controlled environment for these animals, allowing them to thrive and reproduce.

2. The second part of the text focuses on the zoo's impact on the community. It describes how the zoo provides a valuable educational resource for children and adults alike, offering a hands-on learning experience that is both fun and informative. The text also mentions the zoo's role in promoting environmental awareness and encouraging people to take action to protect the planet.

3. The final part of the text discusses the zoo's financial and operational challenges. It notes that the zoo is a large and expensive institution to maintain, and that it often faces budget cuts and other financial difficulties. Despite these challenges, the text emphasizes the zoo's commitment to providing the highest quality care for its animals and the best possible educational experience for its visitors.



*“marsupials  
are  
tumour-  
heaven”*



DYRLÆGE  
Mads F. Bertelsen

ZOO  
KØBENHAVN



*“you have  
to die  
of  
something”*

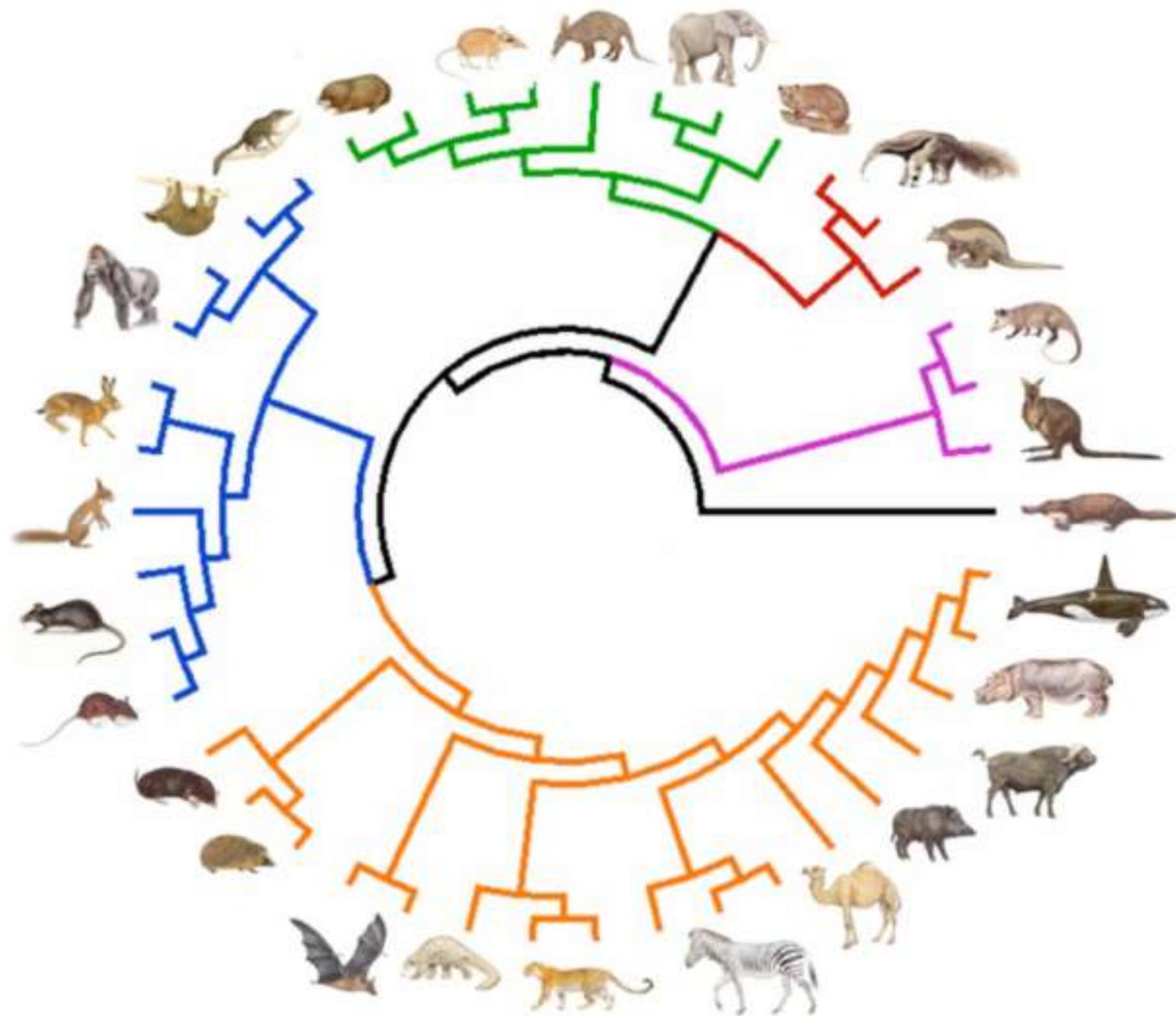




*“better diets  
lead to  
more  
cancer”*



# Comparative approaches





# Mechanisms of cancer resistance in long-lived mammals

Andrei Seluanov, Vadim N. Gladyshev, Jan Vijg and Vera Gorbunova

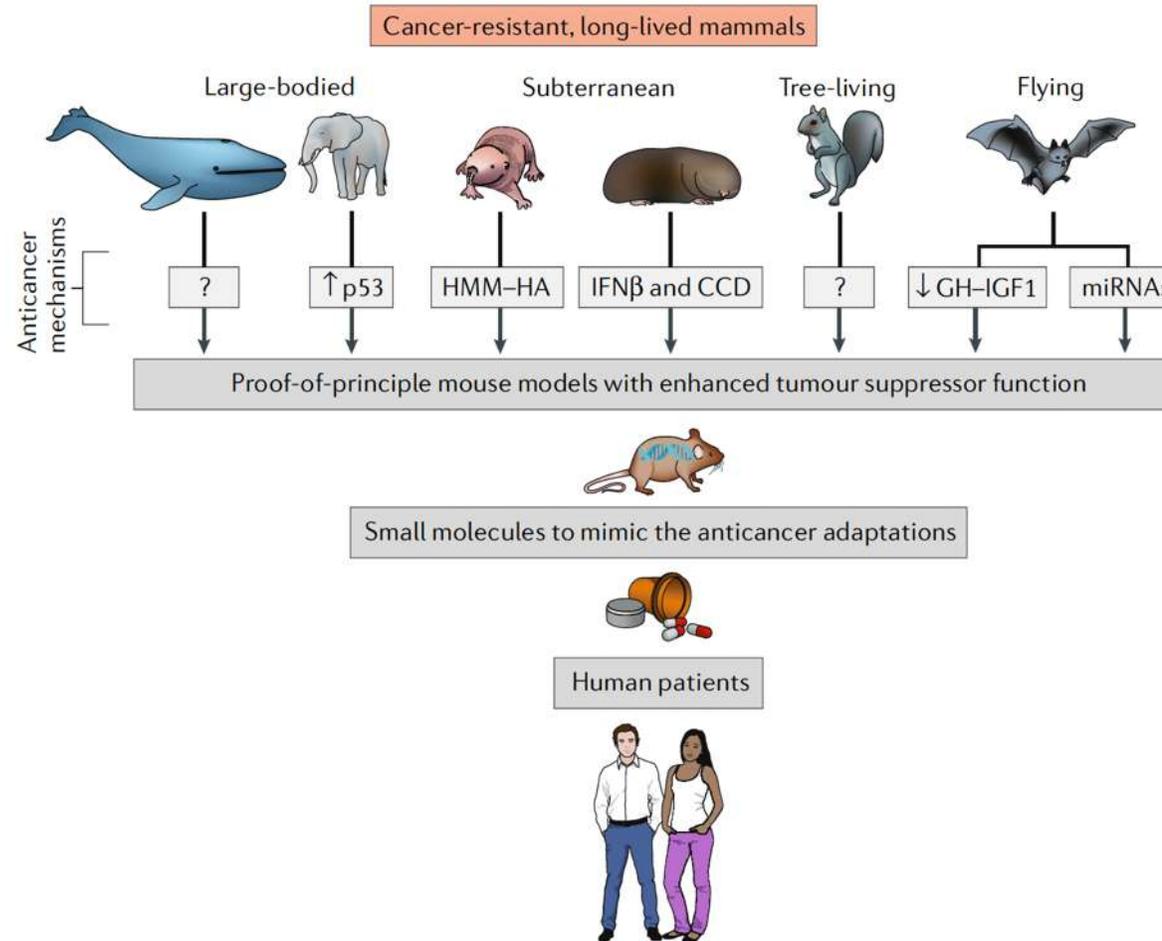


Fig. 5 | Developing anticancer treatments based on naturally evolved cancer resistance. Cancer



# Mechanisms of cancer resistance in long-lived mammals

Andrei Seluanov, Vadim N. Gladyshev, Jan Vijg and Vera Gorbunova

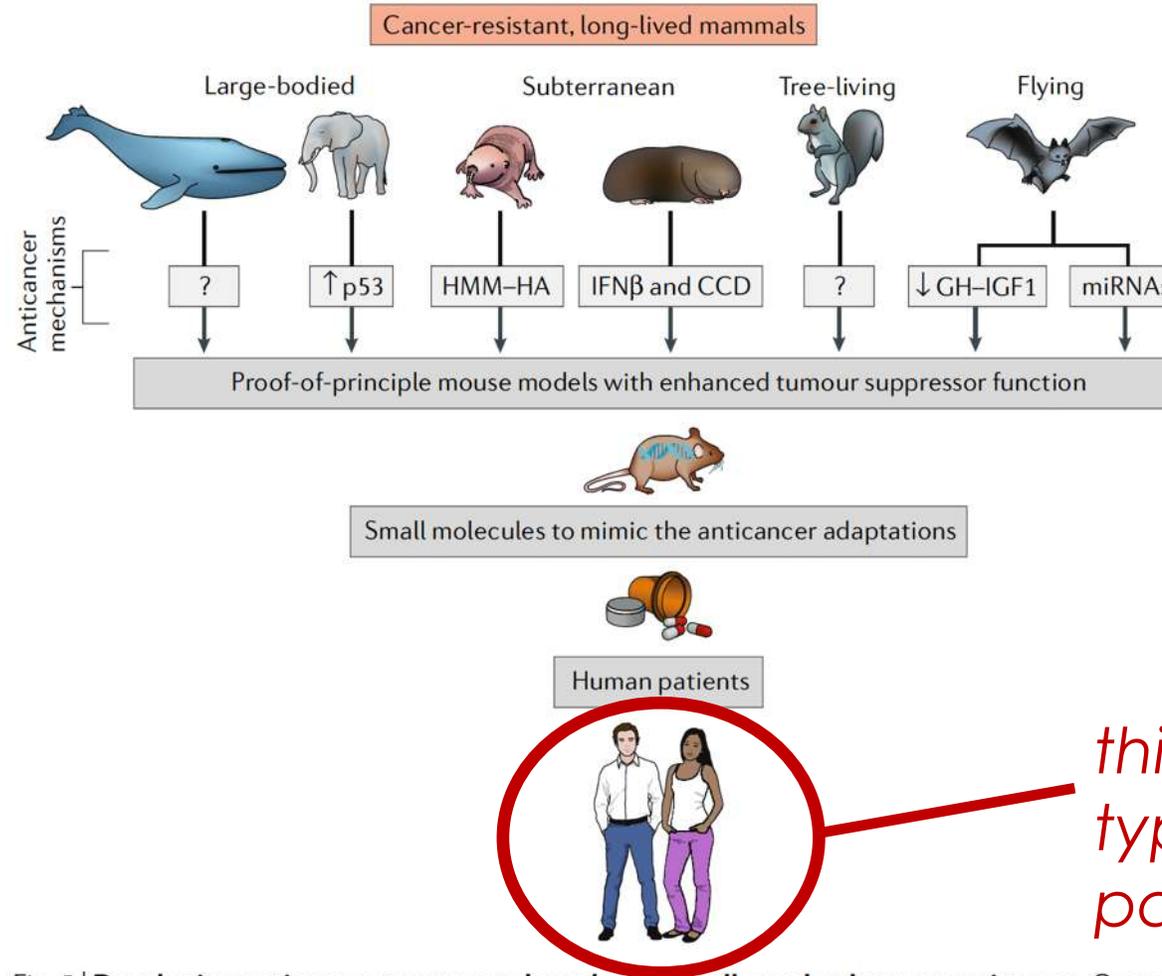


Fig. 5 | Developing anticancer treatments based on naturally evolved cancer resistance. Cancer



A REMARKABLE NEW BREAKTHROUGH IN THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF CANCER AND OTHER DEGENERATIVE DISEASES

# SHARKS DON'T GET CANCER

HOW SHARK CARTILAGE COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

DR. I. WILLIAM LANE  
LINDA COMAC

1992

October 2001

**Review**

*Biol. Pharm. Bull.* **24**(10) 1097—1101 (2001)

## **Shark Cartilage as Source of Antiangiogenic Compounds: From Basic to Clinical Research**

Raimundo Pajón GONZÁLEZ,<sup>\*,a</sup> Albert LEYVA,<sup>b</sup> and Manoel Odorico MORAES<sup>a</sup>



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[CANCER RESEARCH 64, 8485-8491, December 1, 2004]

*Review*

## Shark Cartilage, Cancer and the Growing Threat of Pseudoscience

Gary K. Ostrander,<sup>1</sup> Keith C. Cheng,<sup>2</sup> Jeffrey C. Wolf,<sup>3</sup> and Marilyn J. Wolfe<sup>3</sup>





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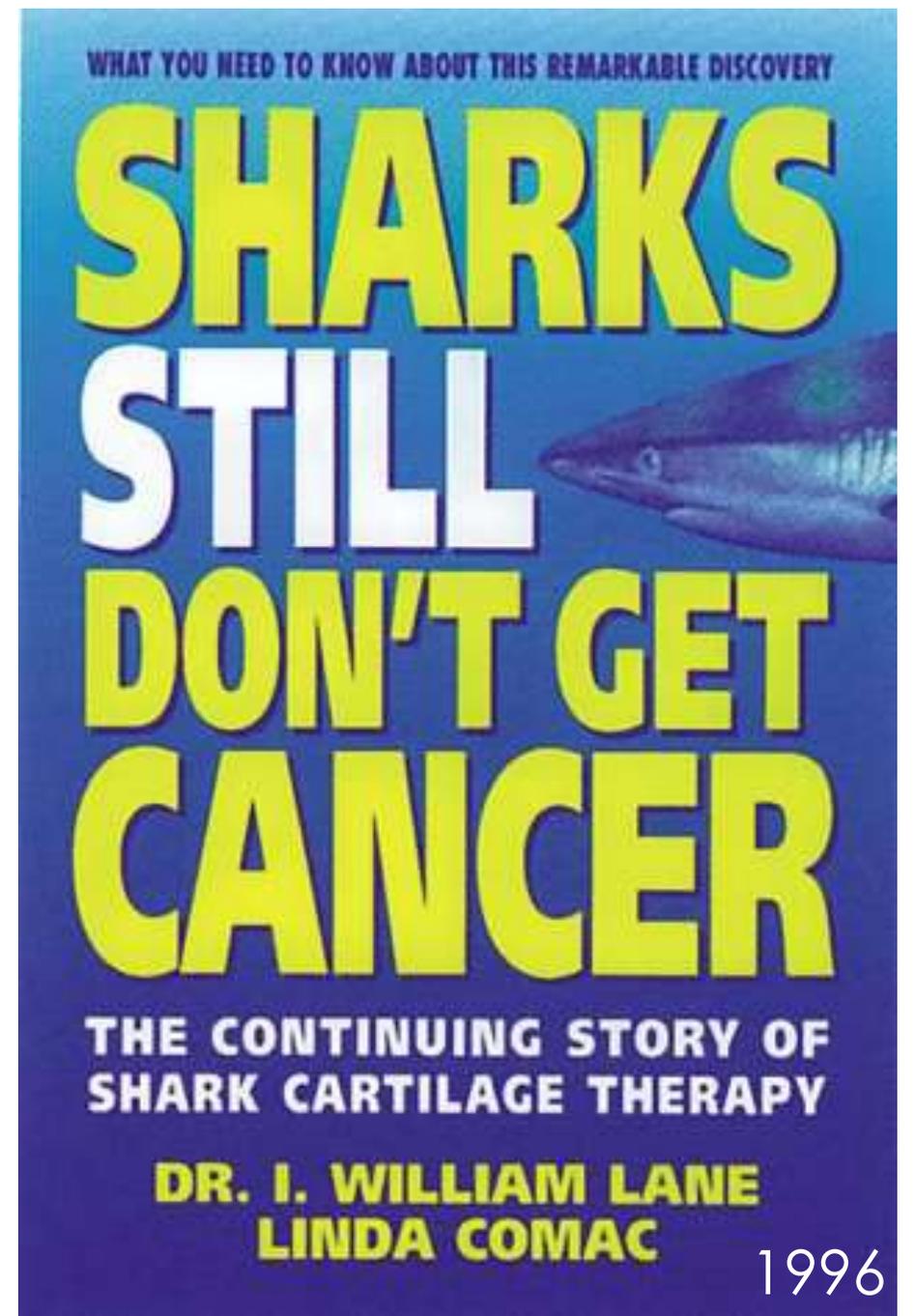
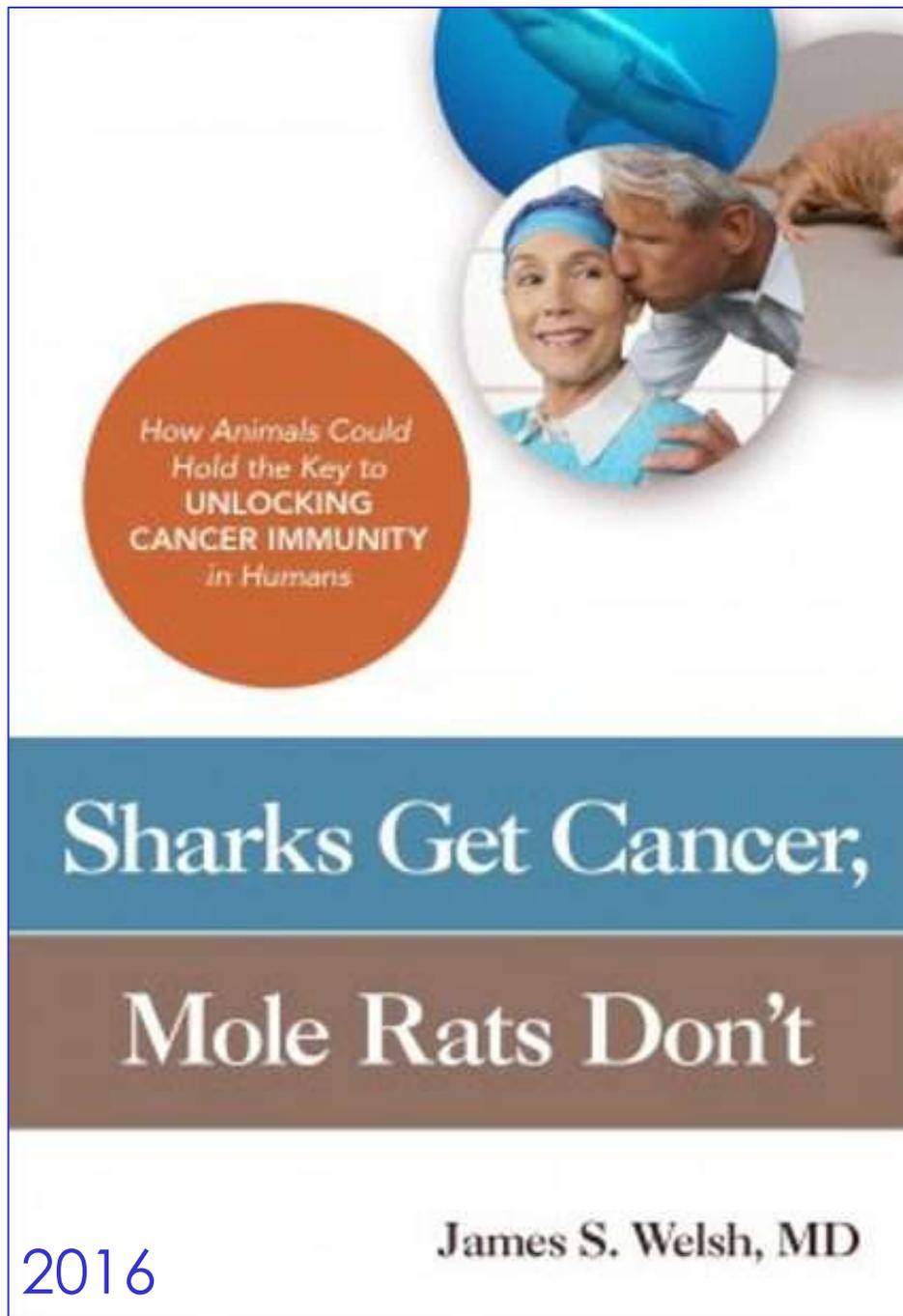
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS REMARKABLE DISCOVERY

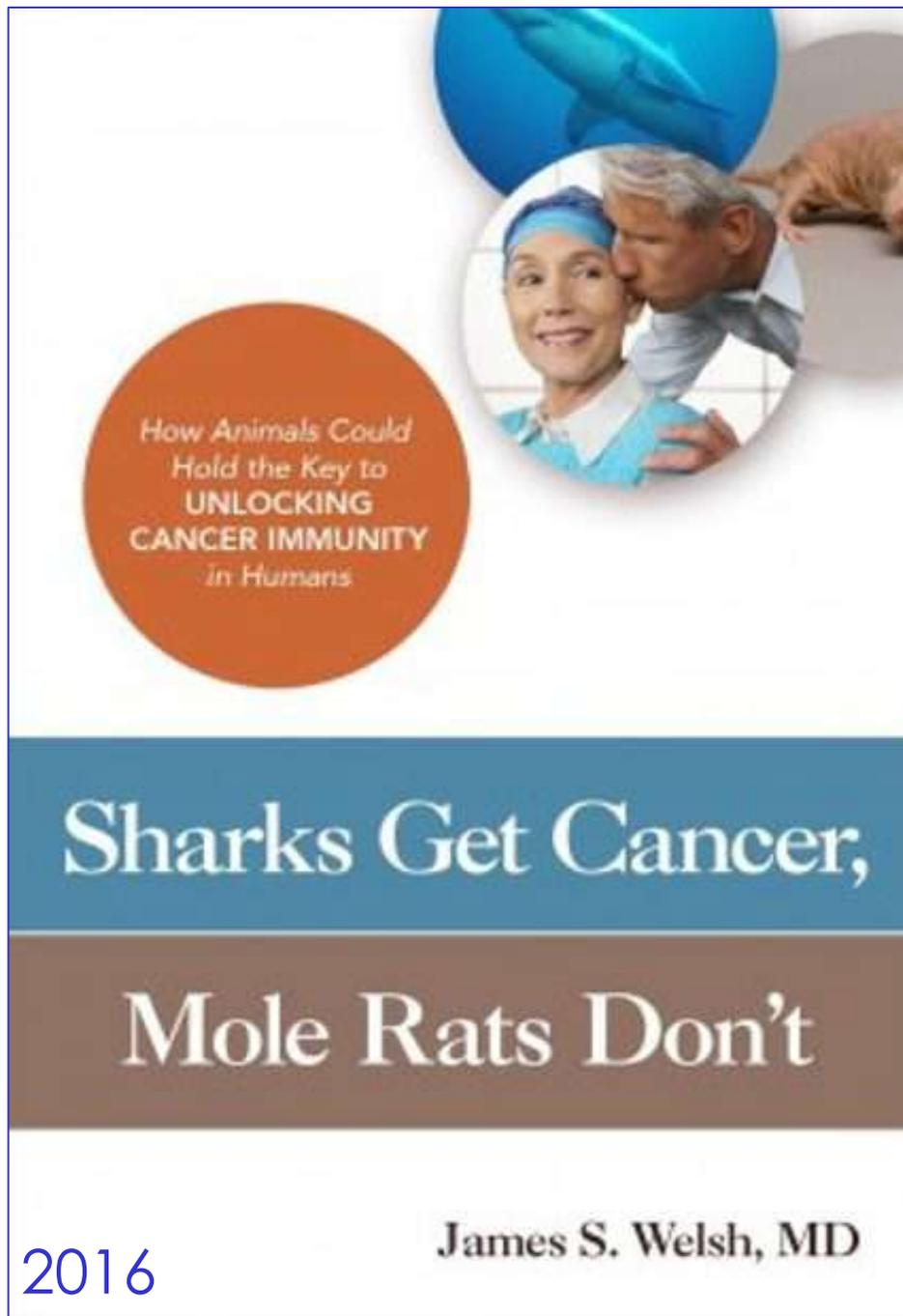
# SHARKS STILL DON'T GET CANCER

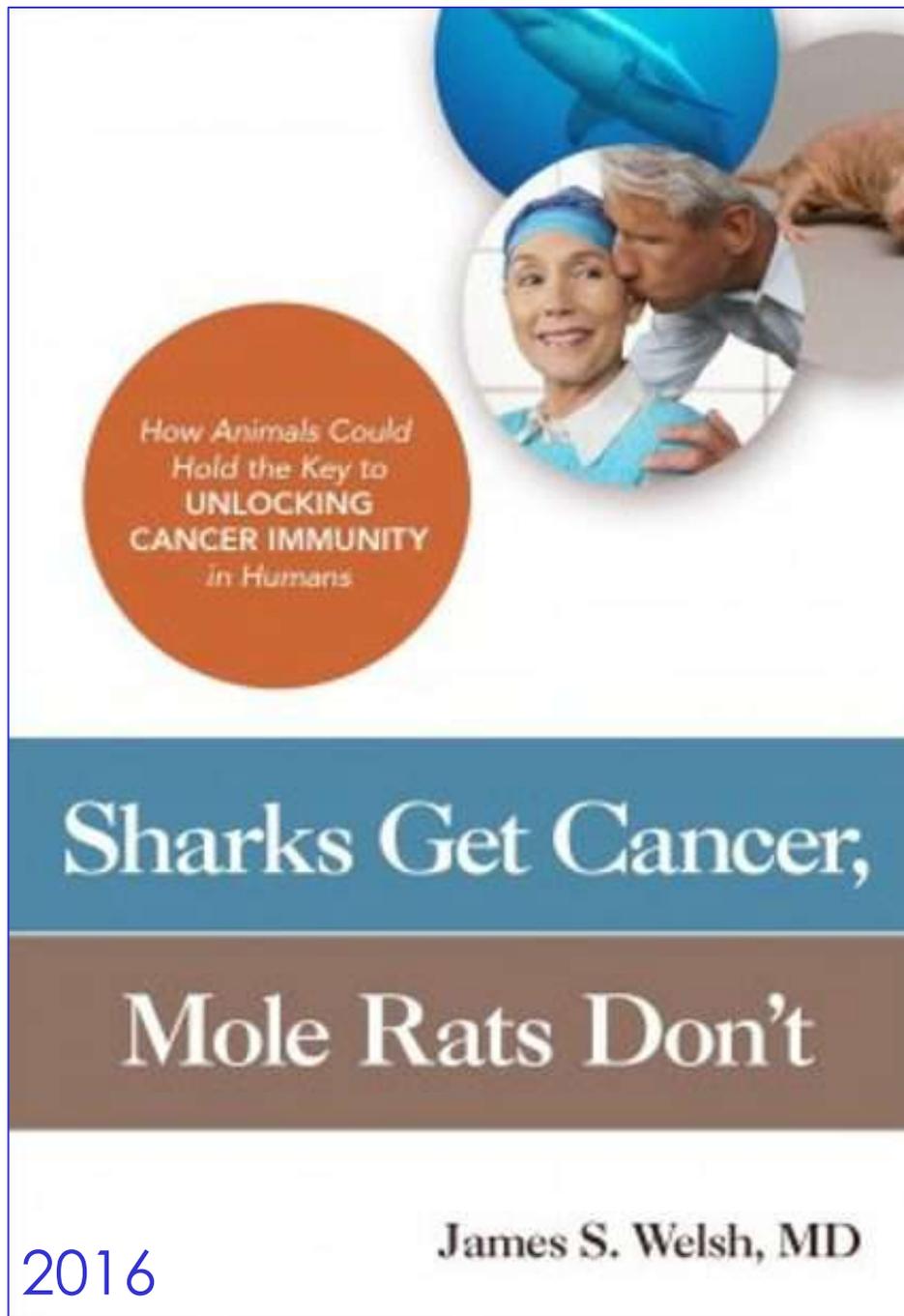
THE CONTINUING STORY OF  
SHARK CARTILAGE THERAPY

DR. I. WILLIAM LANE  
LINDA COMAC

1996







*Journals of Gerontology: Biological Sciences*  
cite as: *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci*, 2017, Vol. 72, No. 1, 38–43  
doi:10.1093/gerona/glw047  
Advance Access publication April 29, 2016

OXFORD

Brief Report

## Four Cases of Spontaneous Neoplasia in the Naked Mole-Rat (*Heterocephalus glaber*), A Putative Cancer-Resistant Species

Kyle R. Taylor,<sup>1,2</sup> Nicholas A. Milone,<sup>1</sup> and Carlos E. Rodriguez<sup>1</sup>



# Aging

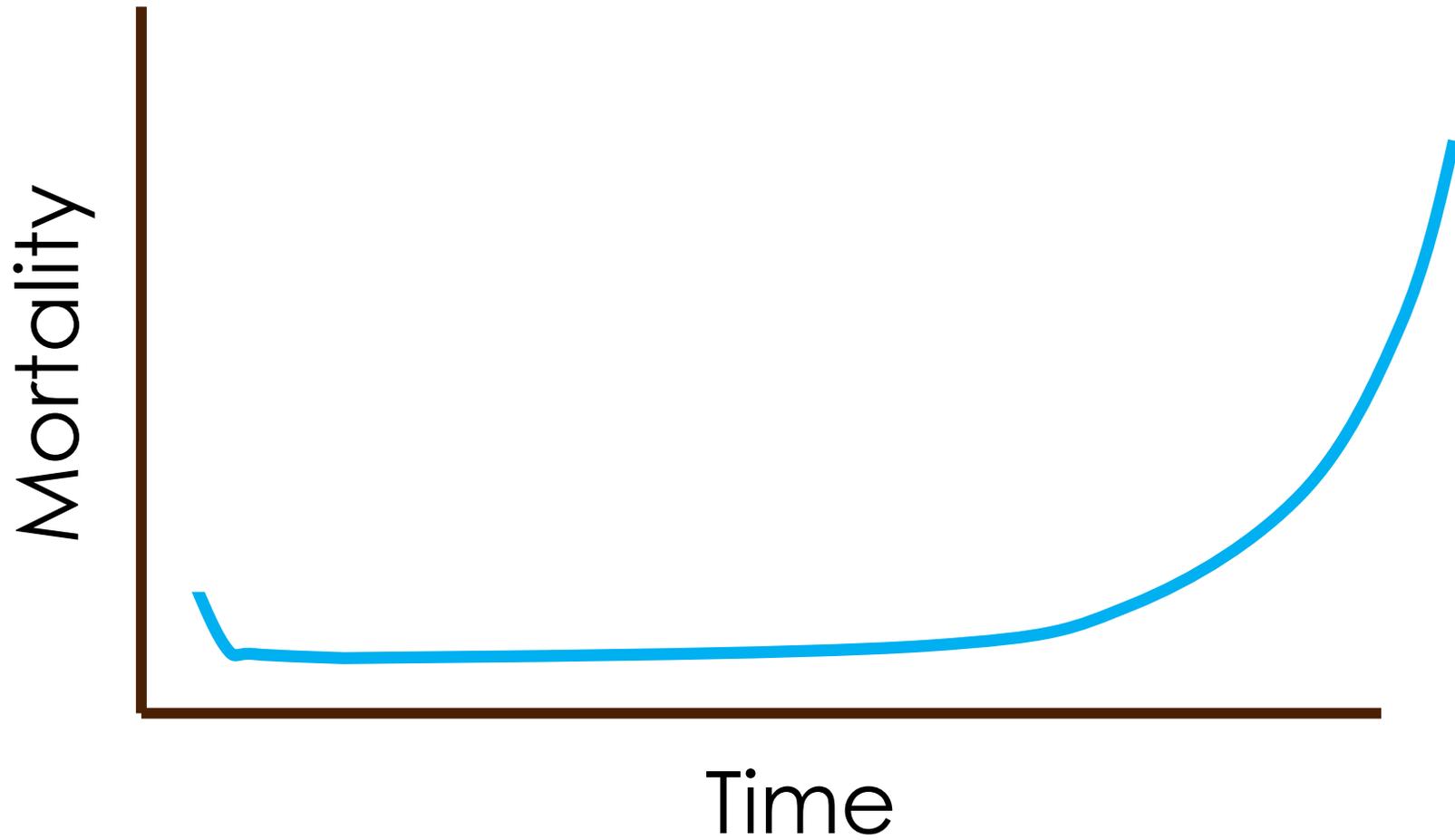


# We age !



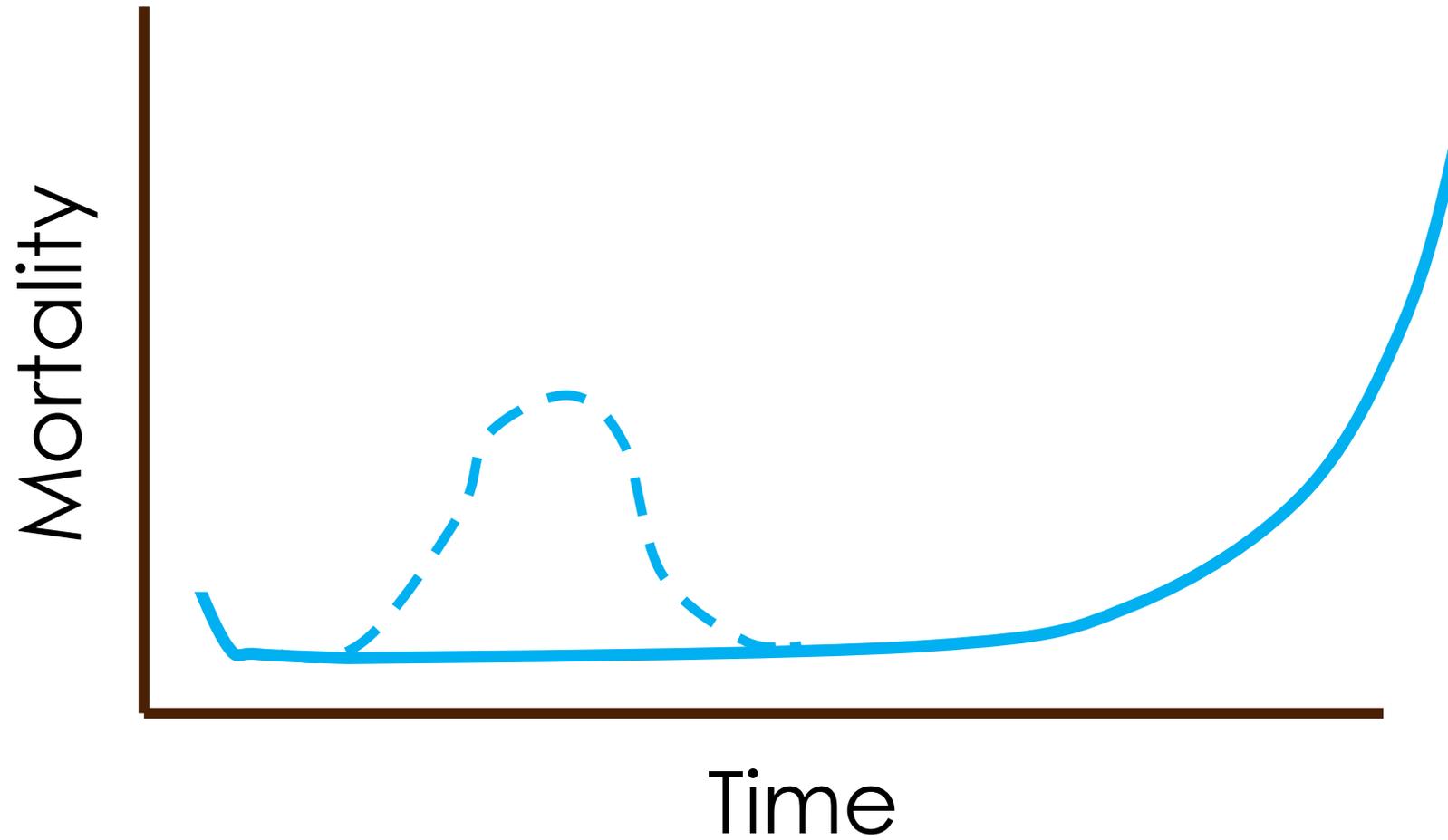


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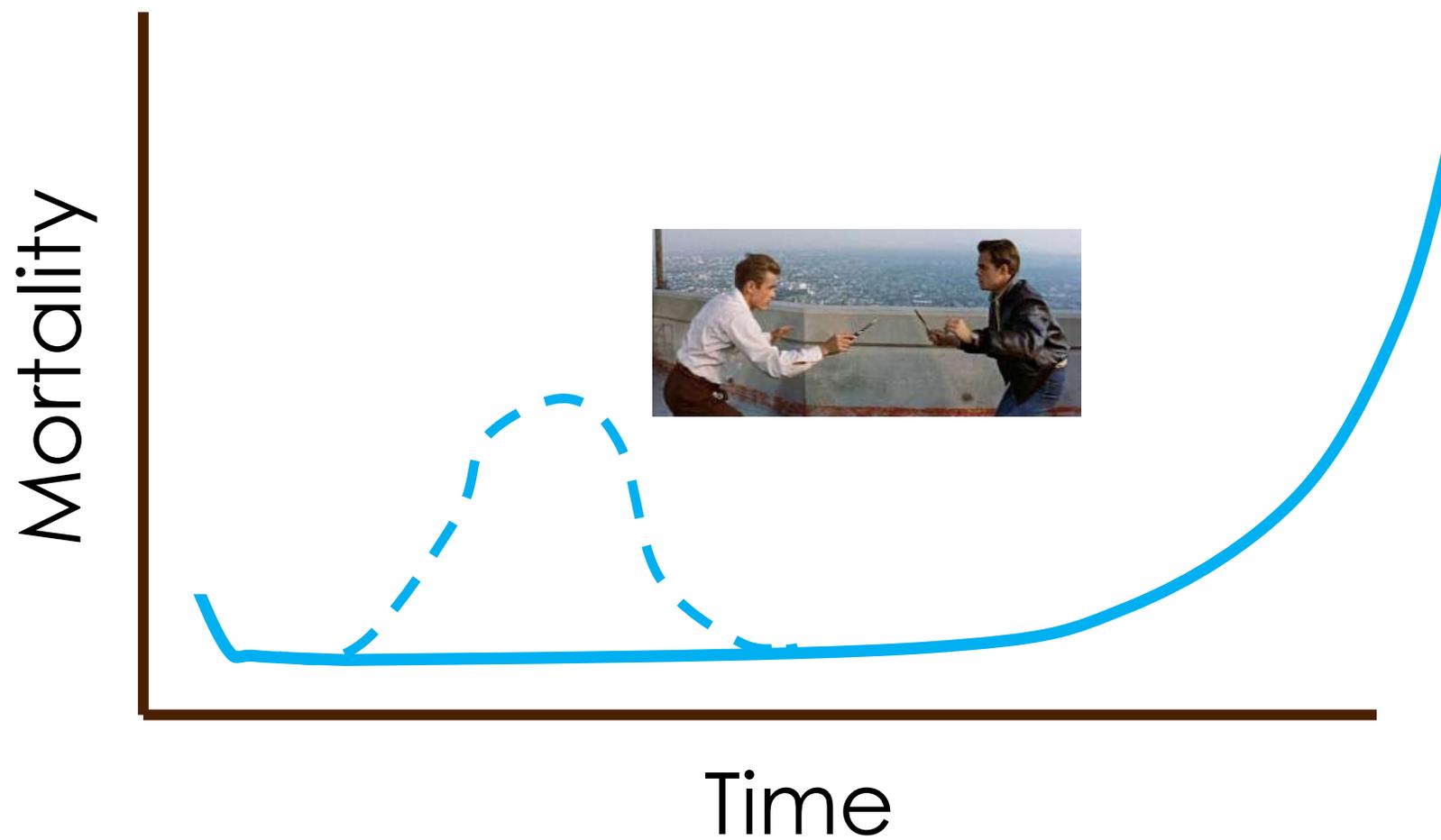


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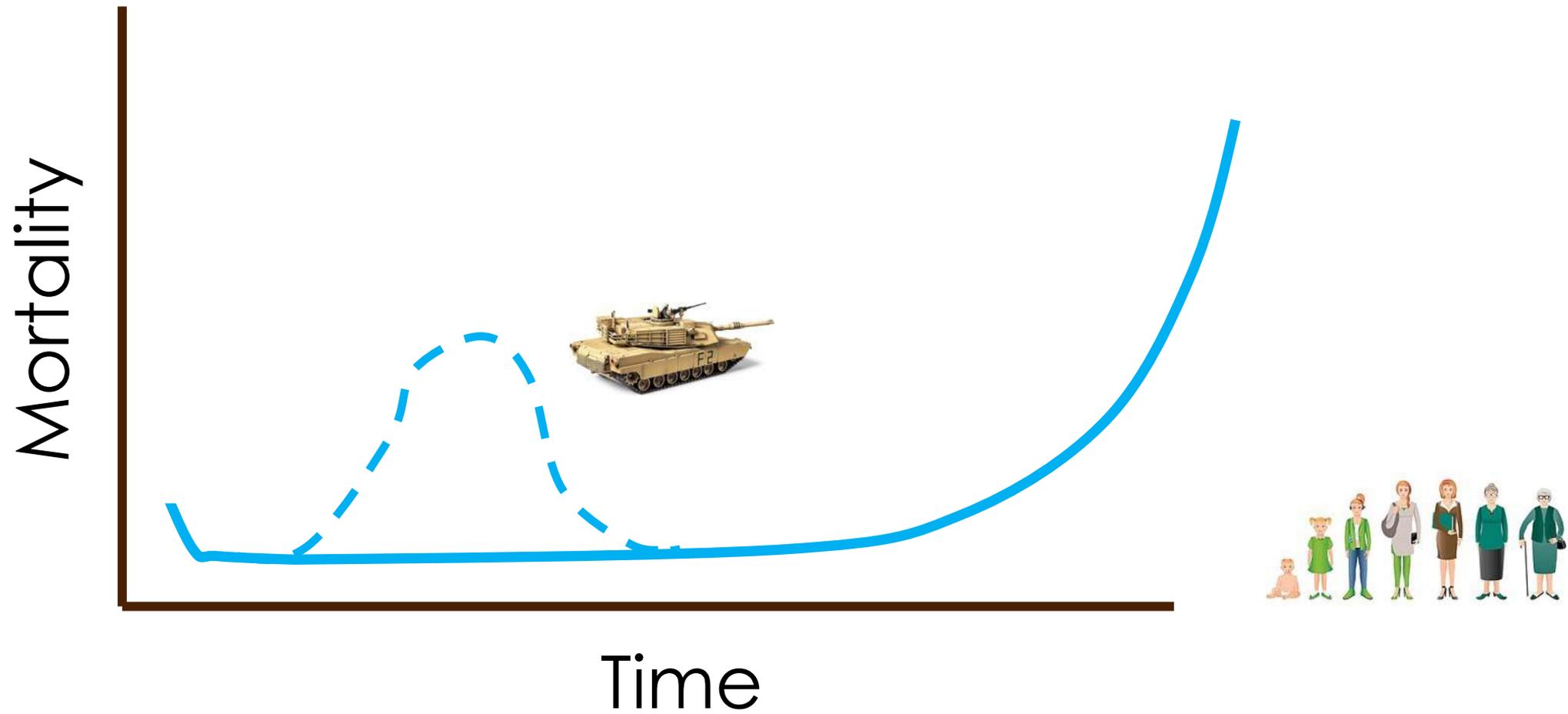


# We age !





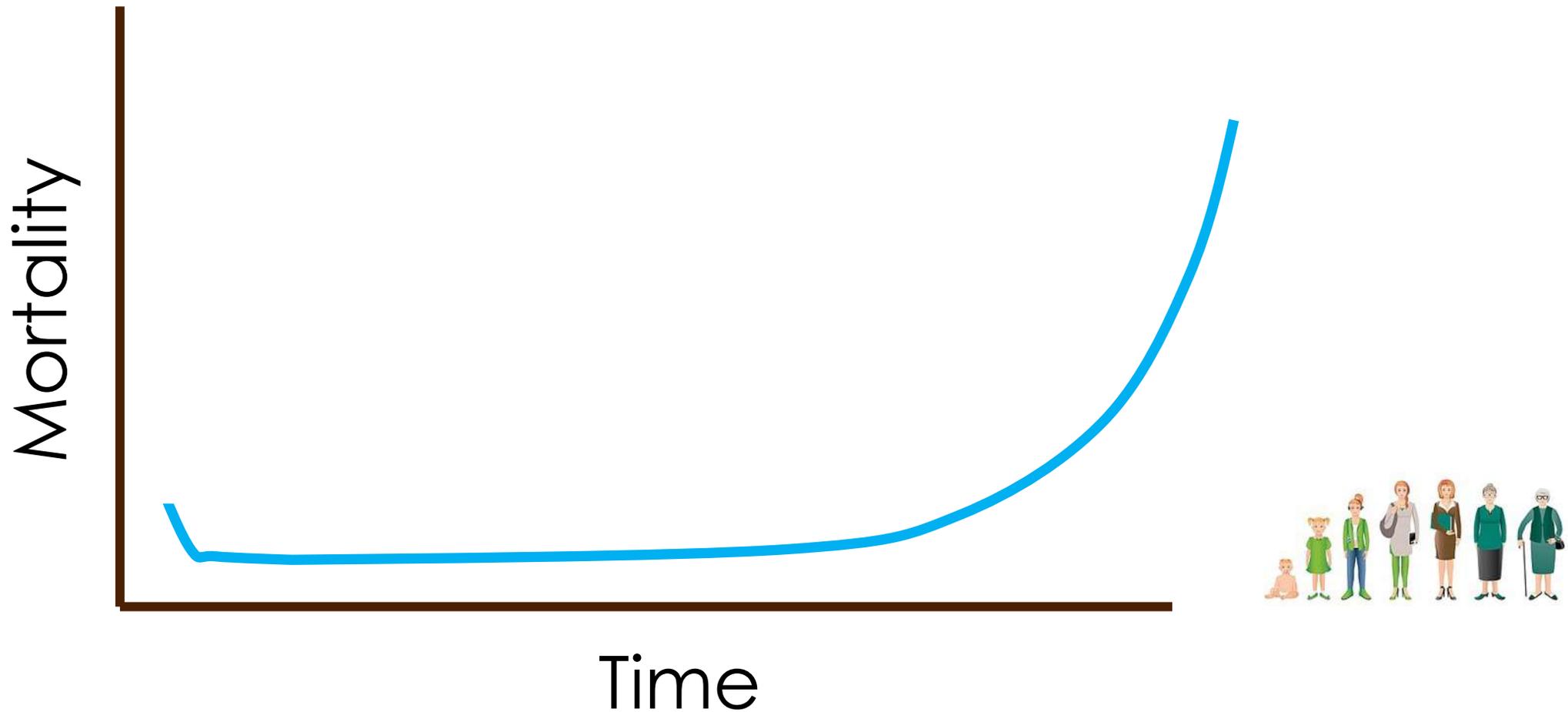
We age !





# We age !

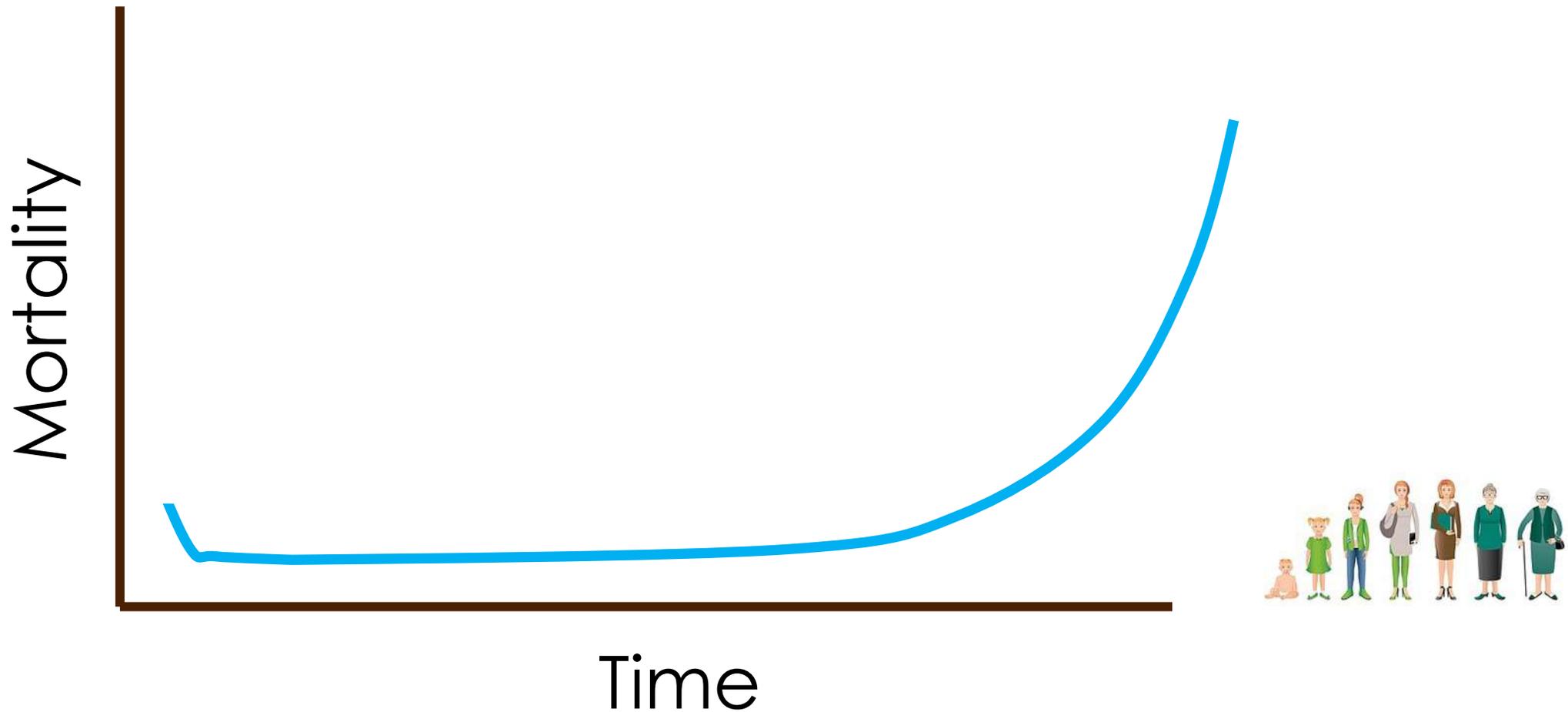
Aging = increase of mortality with time ***unrelated to extrinsic causes***





# Why do we age ?

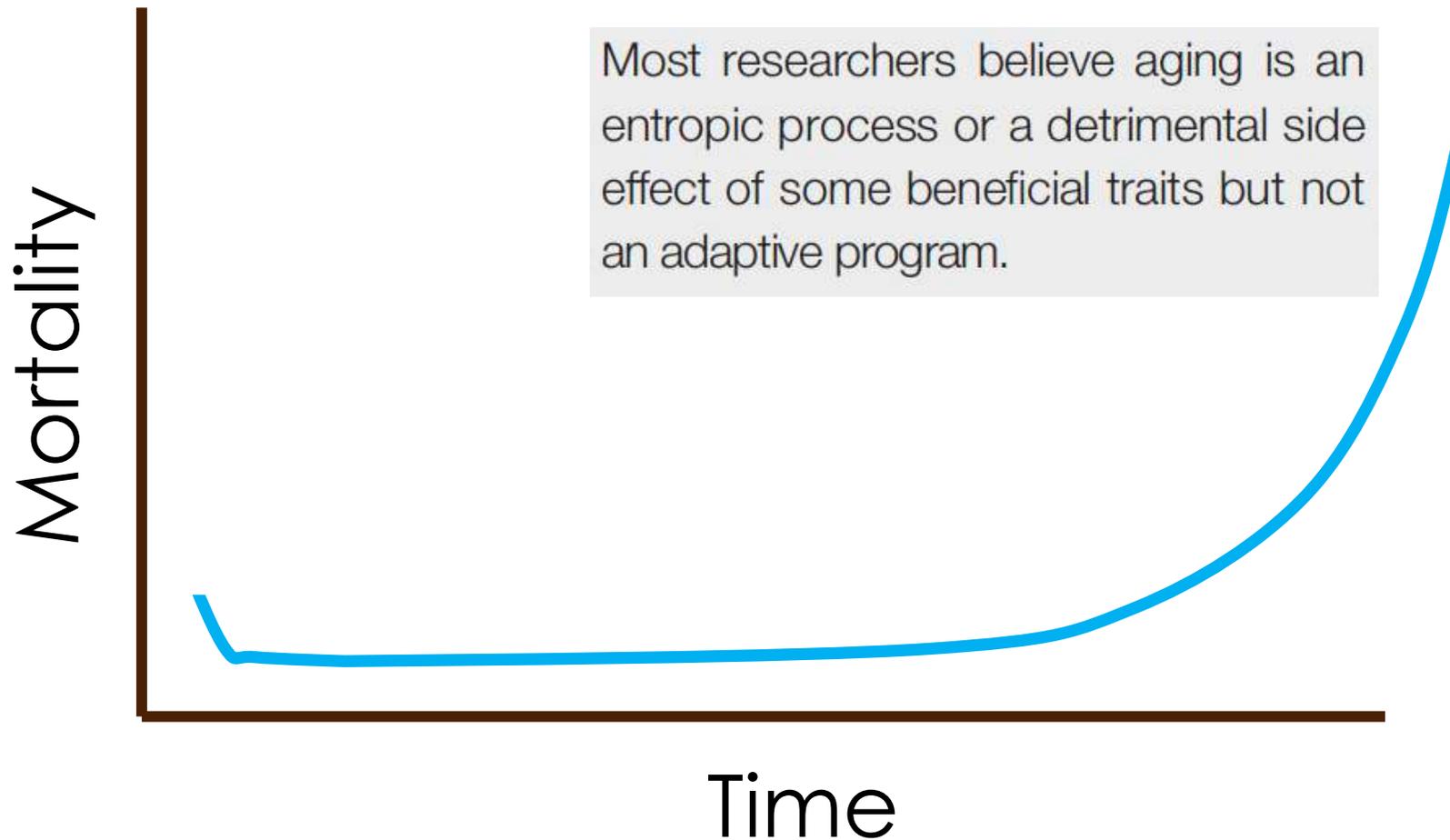
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# Why do we age ?

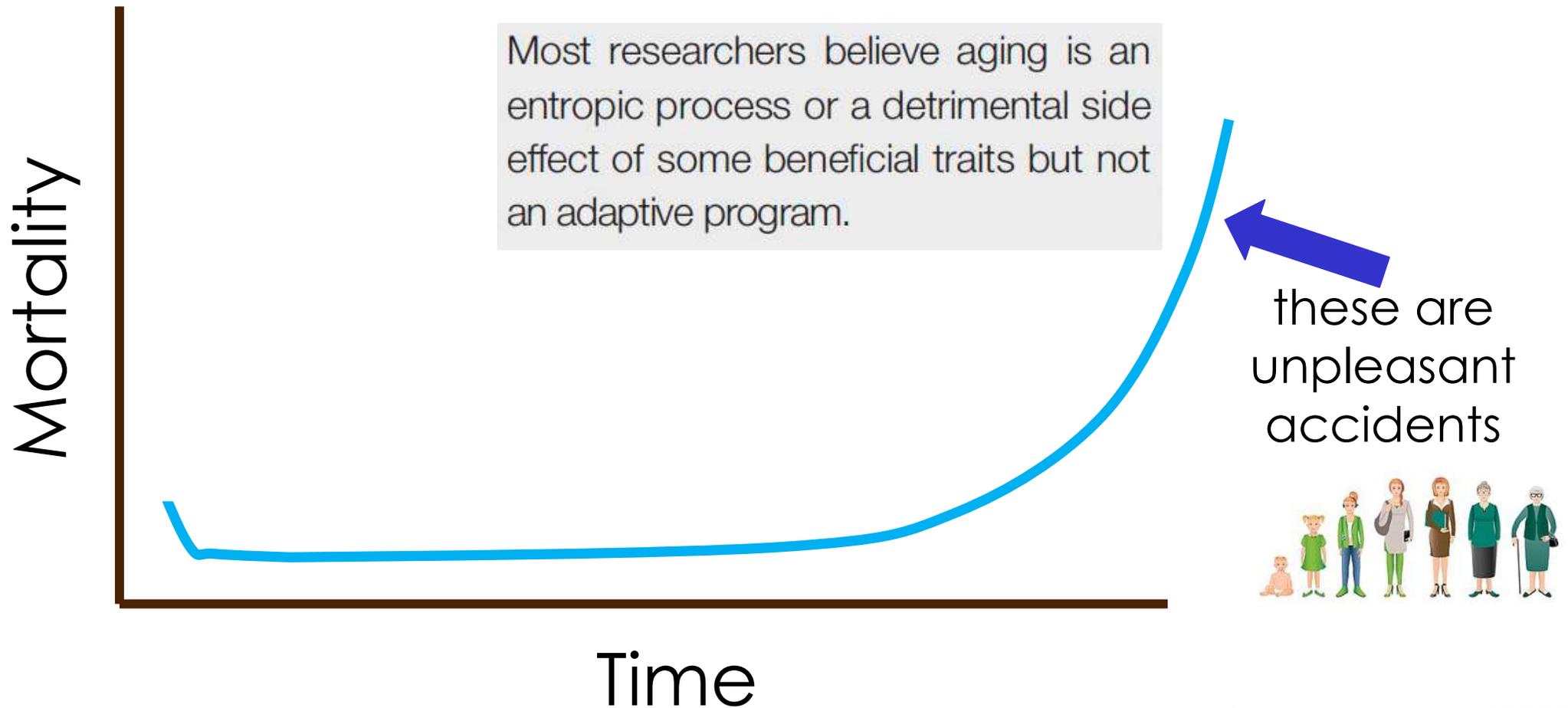
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# Why do we age ?

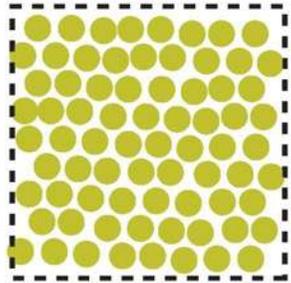
Aging = increase of mortality with time ***unrelated to extrinsic causes***





# Evolution of longevity ?

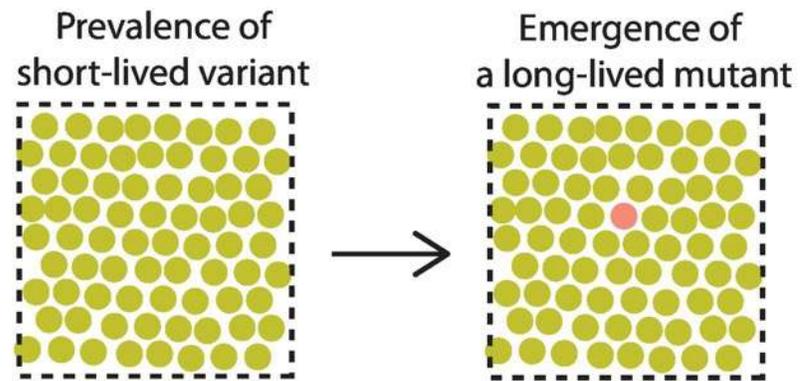
Prevalence of  
short-lived variant



- - Short-lived individual
- - Long-lived individual



# Evolution of longevity ?

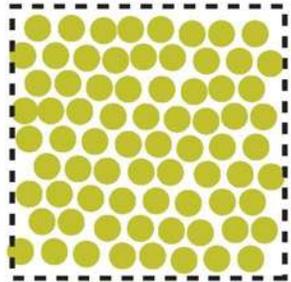


- - Short-lived individual
- - Long-lived individual

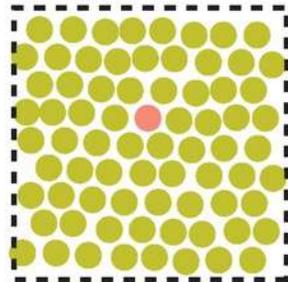


# Evolution of longevity ?

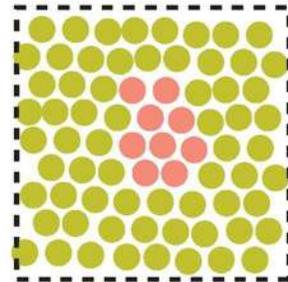
Prevalence of short-lived variant



Emergence of a long-lived mutant



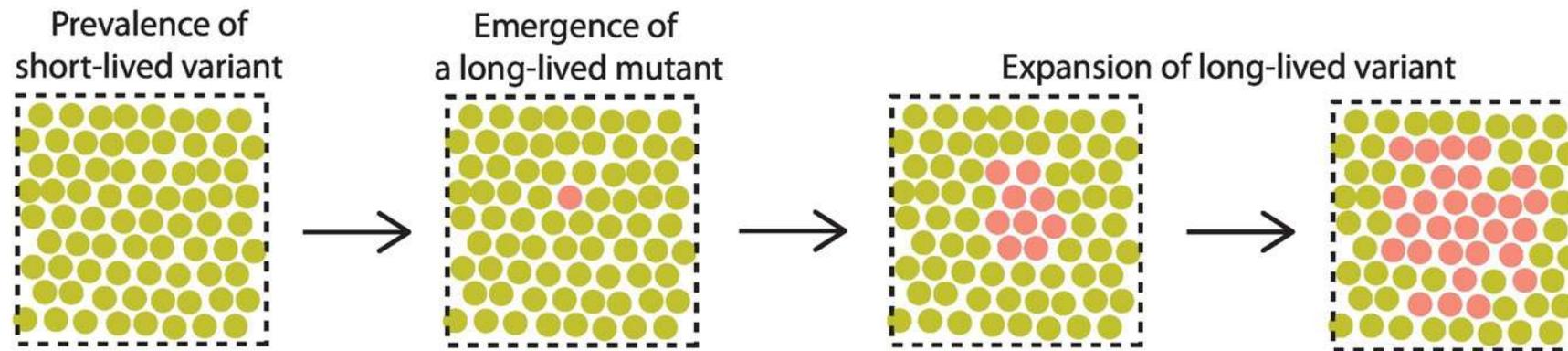
Expansion of long-lived variant



- - Short-lived individual
- - Long-lived individual



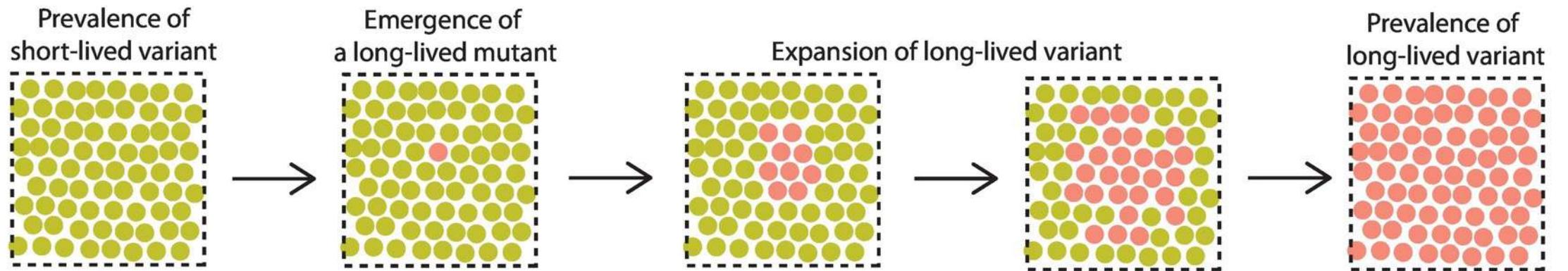
# Evolution of longevity ?



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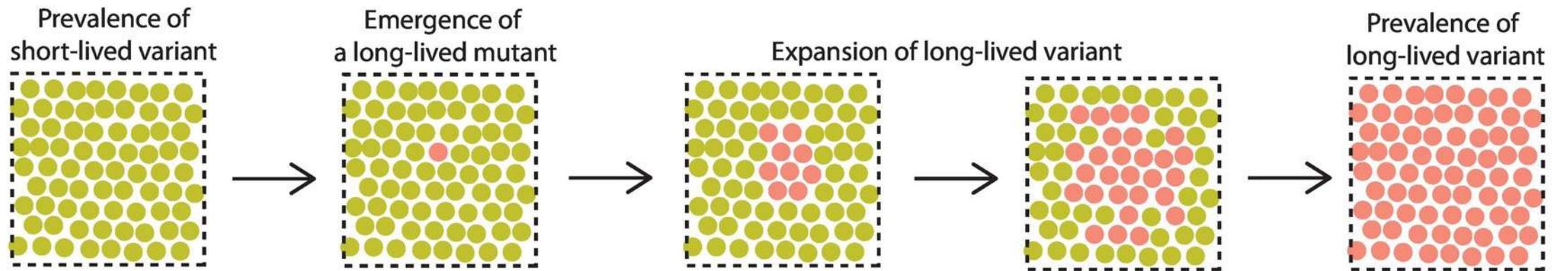
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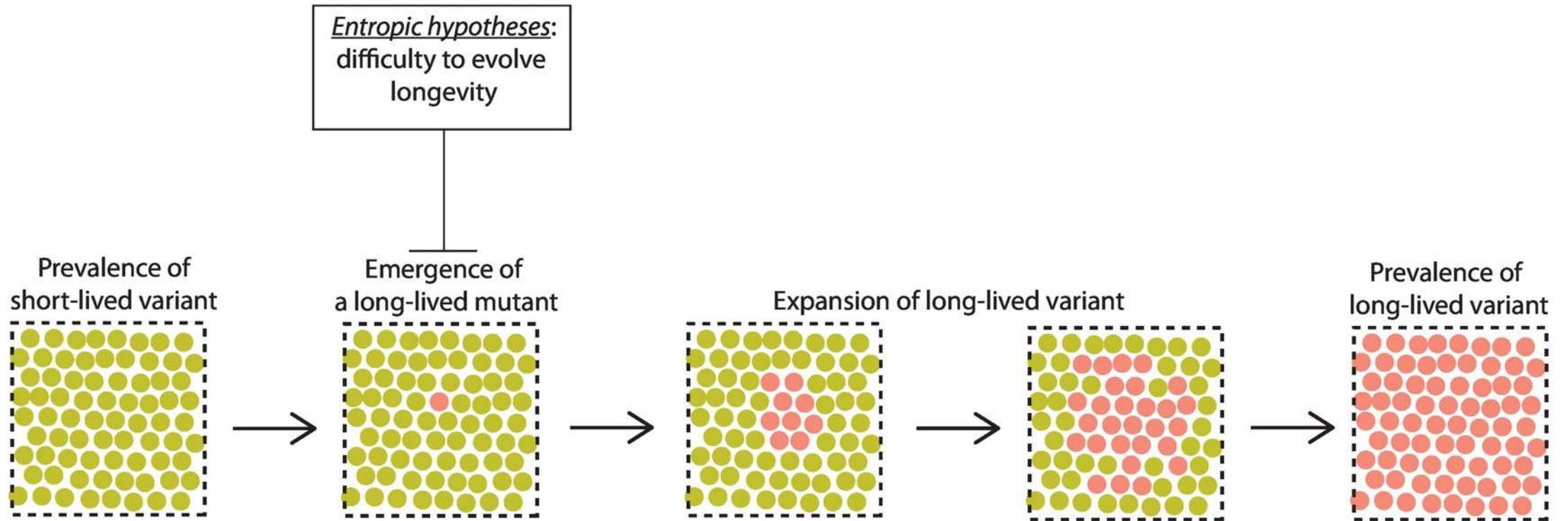
# Theories why we age



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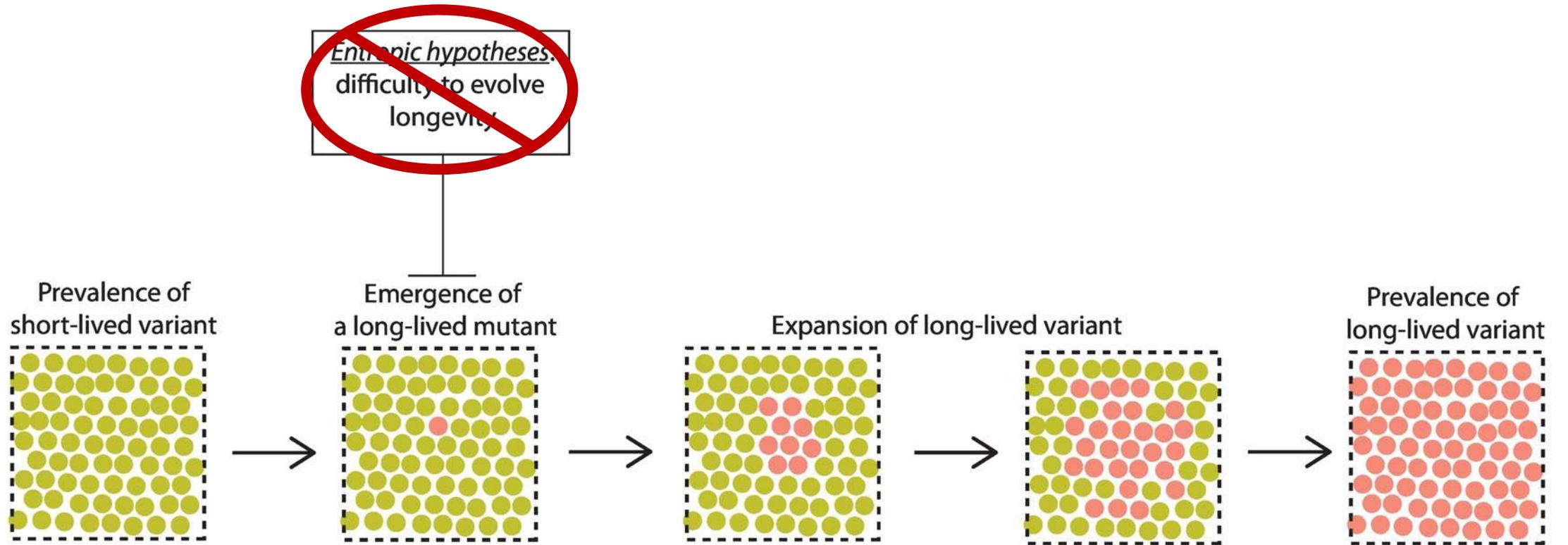
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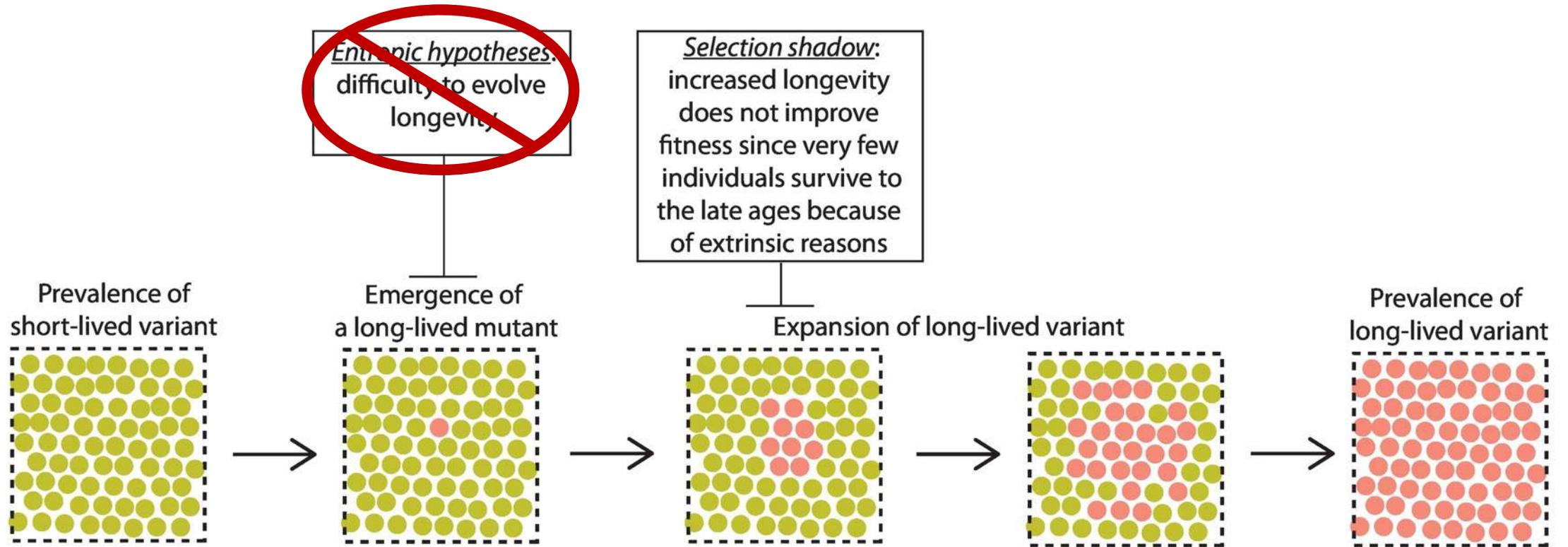
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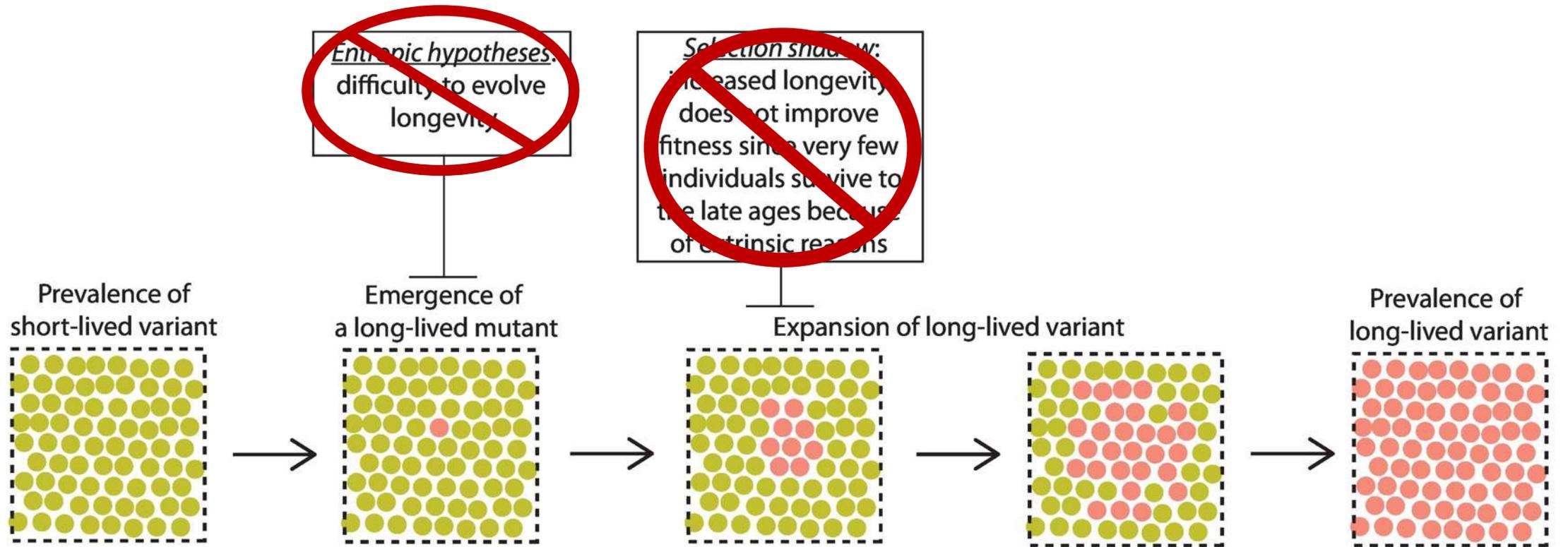


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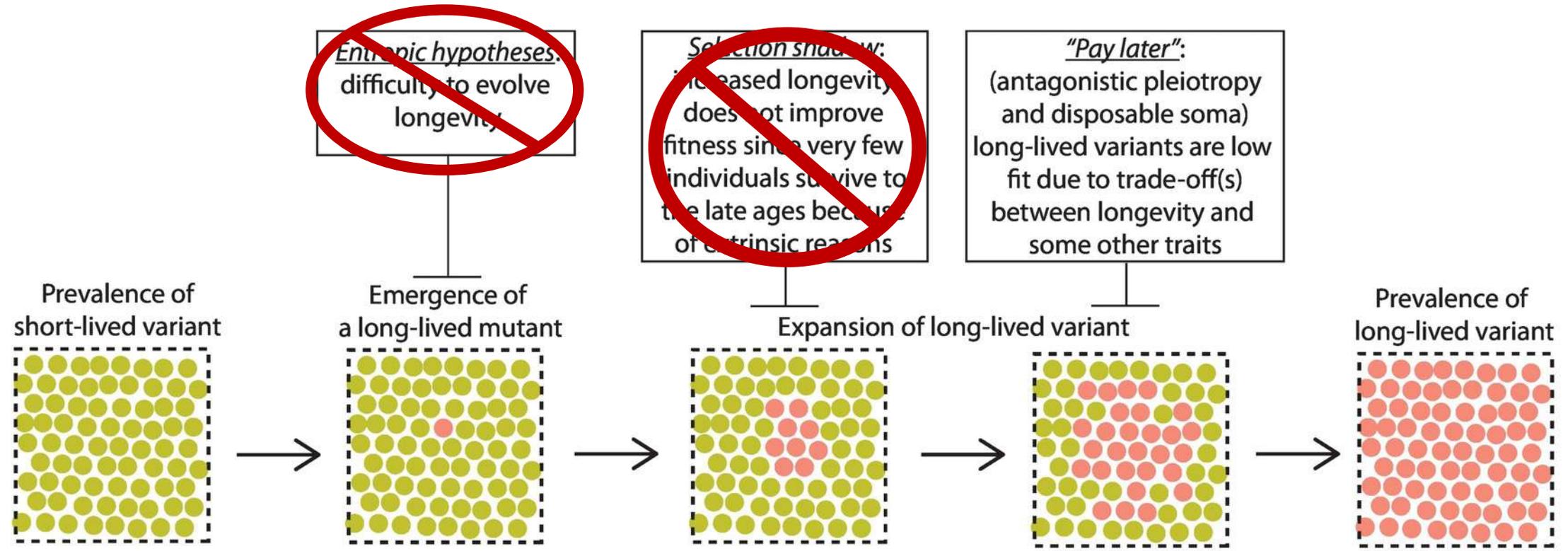
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# Theories why we age



- - Short-lived individual
- - Long-lived individual



# Thinking in trade-offs



# Thinking in trade-offs

*energy is either invested into reproduction when young  
or into longevity*



## The trade-off fallacy

*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*



## The trade-off fallacy

*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*

*... is like saying that with a given amount of fuel, you either transport a certain load a certain distance, or a higher load a shorter distance.*



## The trade-off fallacy

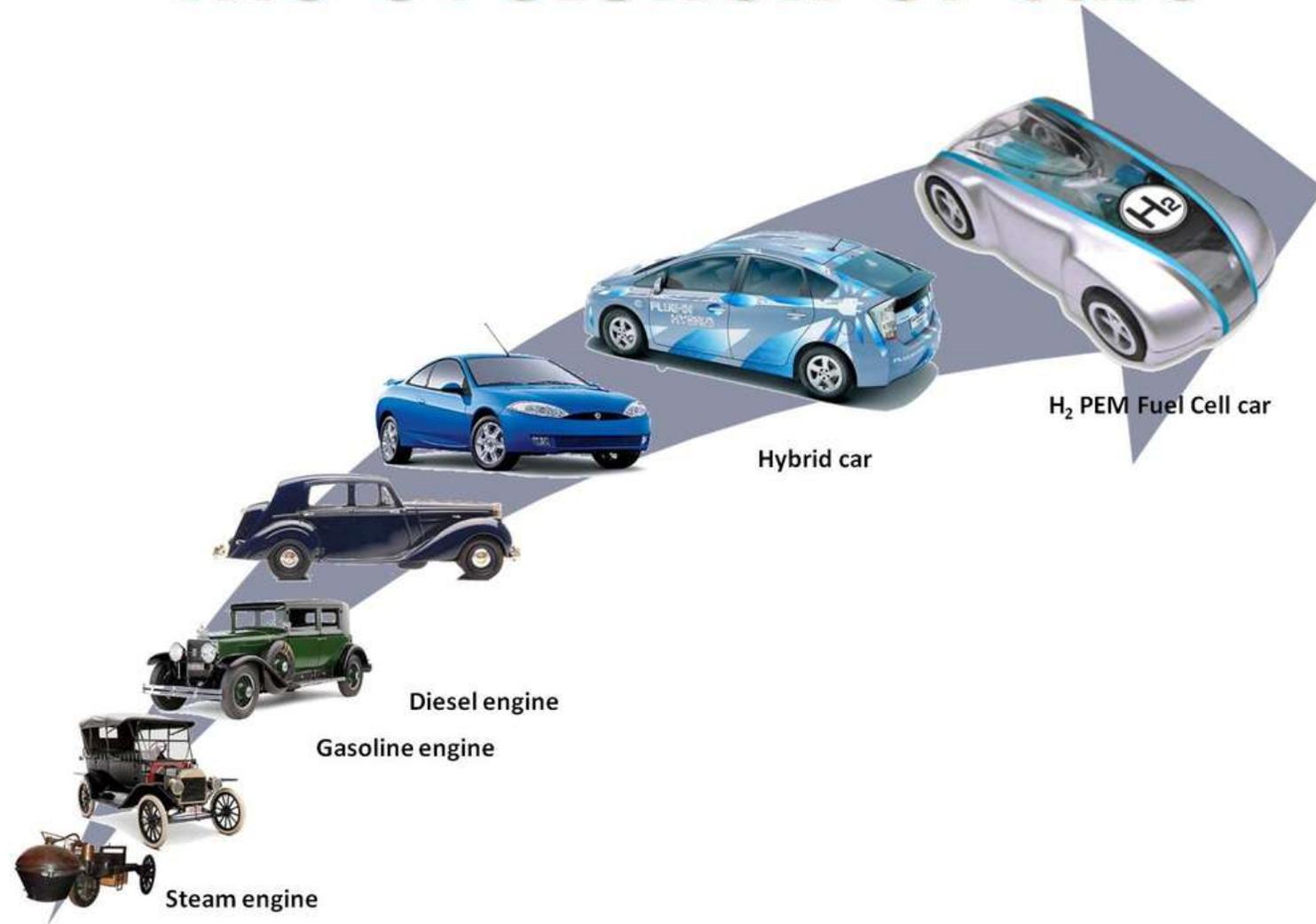
*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*

*... is like saying that with a given amount of fuel, you either transport a certain load a certain distance, or a higher load a shorter distance*

***ignoring the possibility that someone might develop a more efficient engine***



# The evolution of cars





## The trade-off fallacy

*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*



## The trade-off fallacy

*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*

*... is like saying that if you want to have more meat on your chicken, you have to feed it more food for a longer period of time.*



## The trade-off fallacy

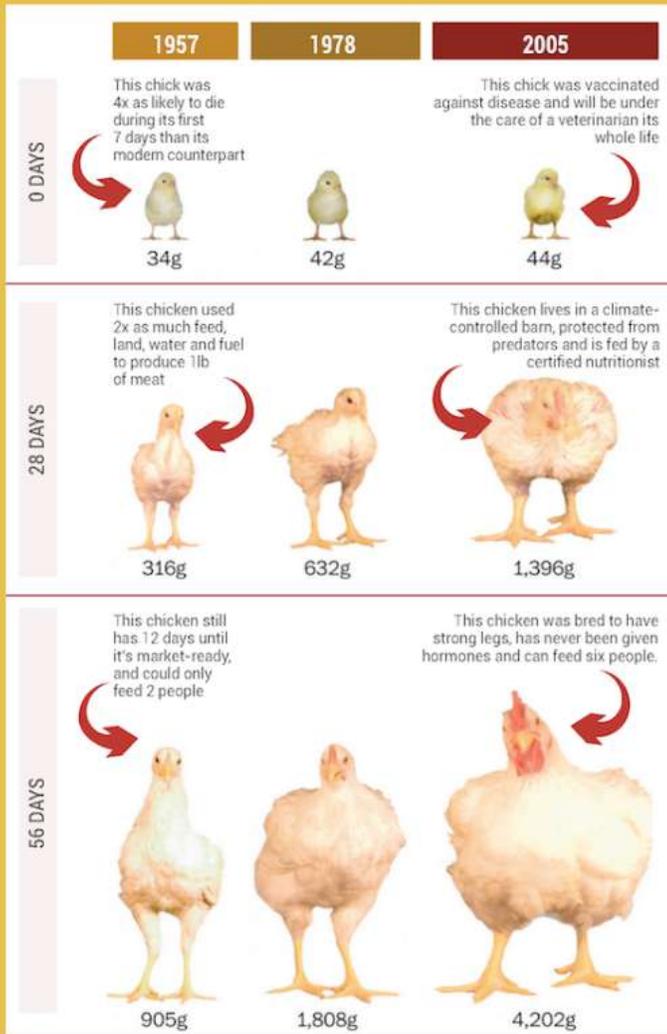
*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*

*... is like saying that if you want to have more meat on your chicken, you have to feed it more food for a longer period of time*

***ignoring the possibility that someone might breed an animal that grows faster on less food***



# YEP, CHICKENS ARE BIGGER TODAY



It's no secret that today's chickens are bigger than in years past. They're also the healthiest they've ever been. Find out how at [chickencheck.in](http://chickencheck.in)



Note: 1,000 grams equals 2.2 pounds  
Source: University of Alabama Meat Center  
Image Credit: <http://www.walshreport.com/news/work/2011/02/25/the-unbelievable-growth-of-american-food-fodies-floors-and-into-visuals/>



## The trade-off fallacy

*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*



## The trade-off fallacy

*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*

*... is ignoring the possibility that individuals (and taxa) might evolve that achieve a higher reproductive output with the same level of resources due to a higher efficiency.*



# High reproductive effort is associated with decreasing mortality late in life in captive ruffed lemurs

Morgane Tidière<sup>1</sup>  | Jean-François Lemaître<sup>1</sup> | Guillaume Douay<sup>2</sup> |  
Mylisa Whipple<sup>3</sup> | Jean-Michel Gaillard<sup>1</sup>

*Am J Primatol.* 2017;**79**:e22677.

These findings indicate that individual quality rather than trade-off drives the association between reproductive success and survival pattern among individual lemurs



## The trade-off fallacy

*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*



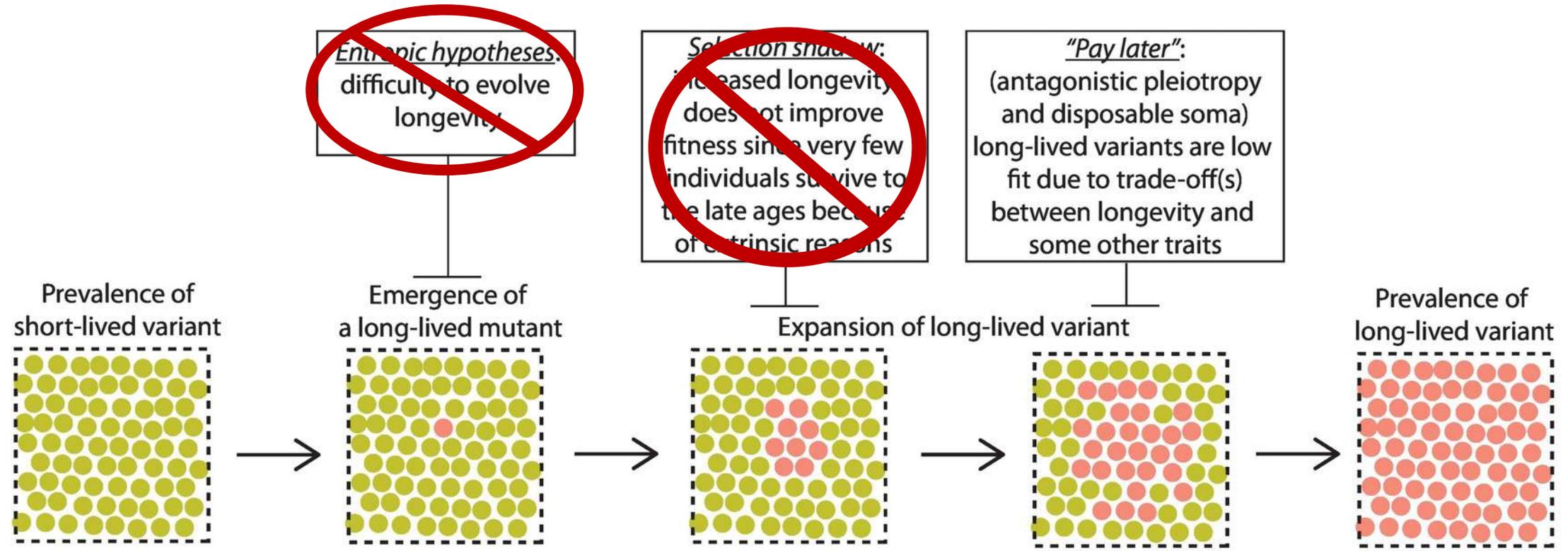
## The trade-off fallacy

*Saying that you either invest more into reproduction (live fast, produce many offspring at a time) or more into maintenance (live slower, produce less offspring at a time but over a longer period) ...*

***... is like saying you do not believe that evolution can find new solutions.***



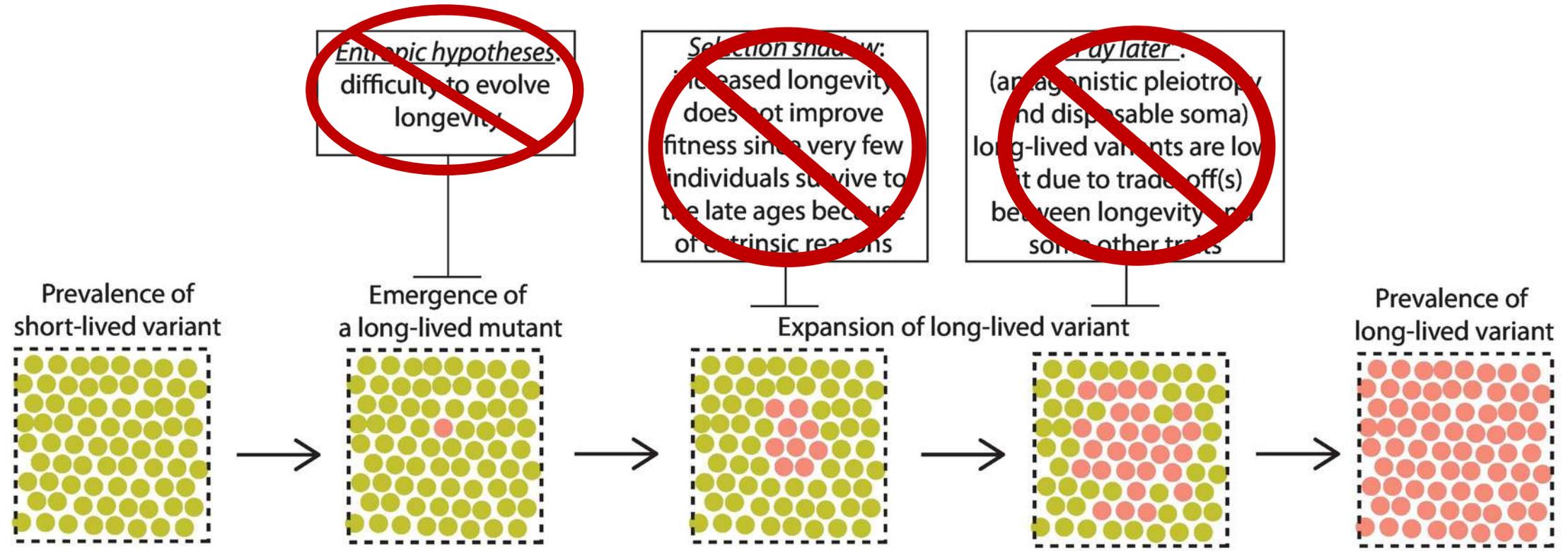
# Theories why we age



- - Short-lived individual
- - Long-lived individual



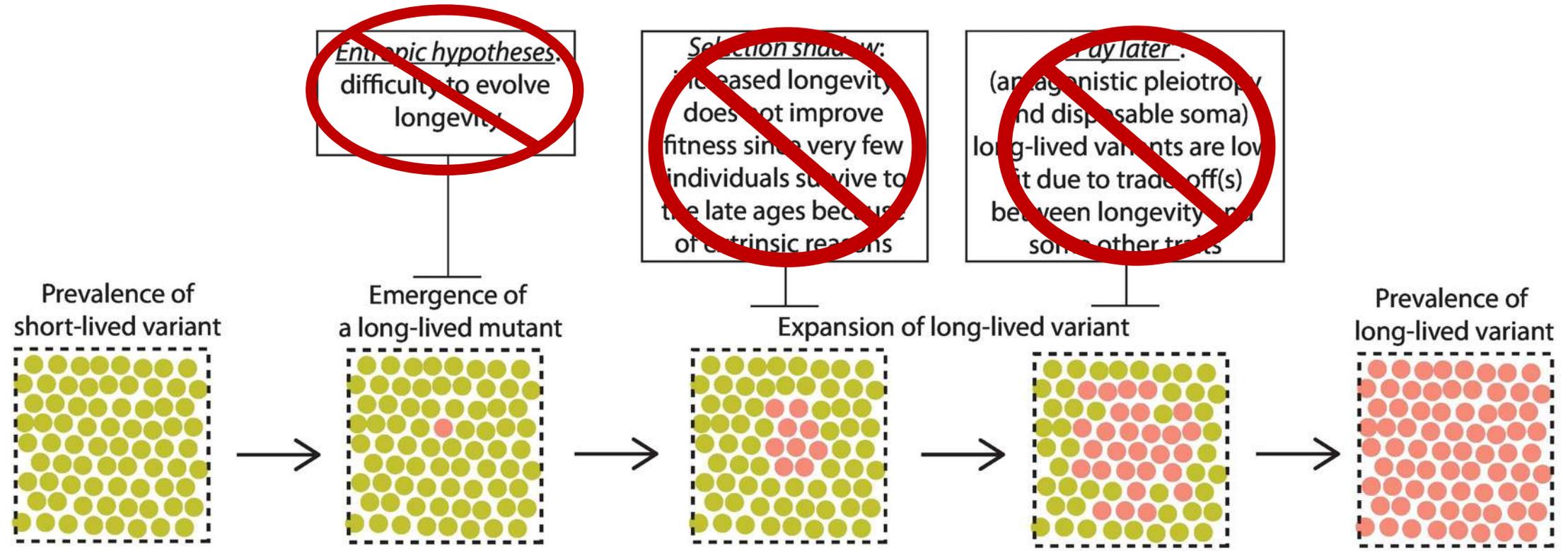
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# Theories why we age



- - Short-lived individual
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remember: longevity **increases** when energy intake is restricted



# Could aging evolve as a pathogen control strategy?

Trends in Ecology & Evolution, December 2022, Vol. 37, No. 12

Peter V. Lidsky <sup>1,\*</sup> and Raul Andino<sup>1,\*</sup>



# Could aging evolve as a pathogen control strategy?

Trends in Ecology & Evolution, December 2022, Vol. 37, No. 12

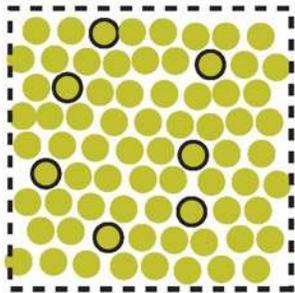
Peter V. Lidsky <sup>1,\*</sup> and Raul Andino<sup>1,\*</sup>

**Aging might have evolved to remove older individuals who carry chronic diseases that may transmit to their younger kin. Thus, selection for shorter lifespans may benefit kin's fitness.**



# Theories why we age

Prevalence of  
short-lived variant

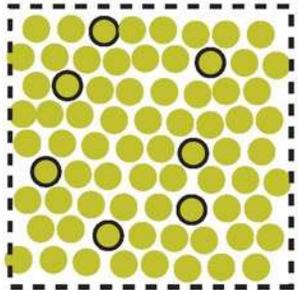


- - Short-lived individual
- - Long-lived individual
- - Infection

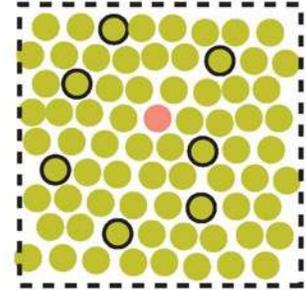


# Theories why we age

Prevalence of short-lived variant



Emergence of a long-lived mutant

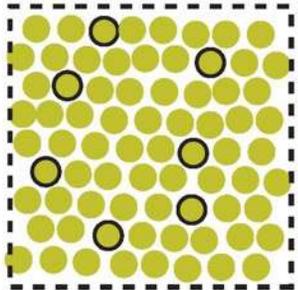


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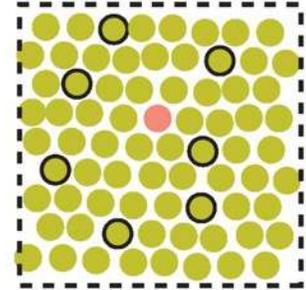


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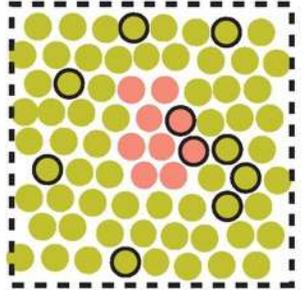
Prevalence of short-lived variant



Emergence of a long-lived mutant



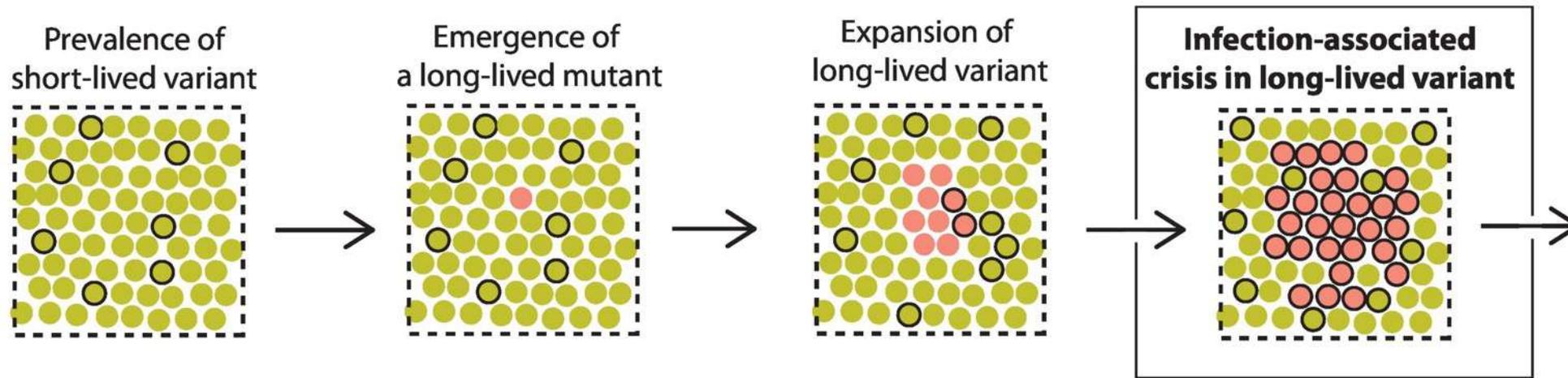
Expansion of long-lived variant



- - Short-lived individual
- - Long-lived individual
- - Infection



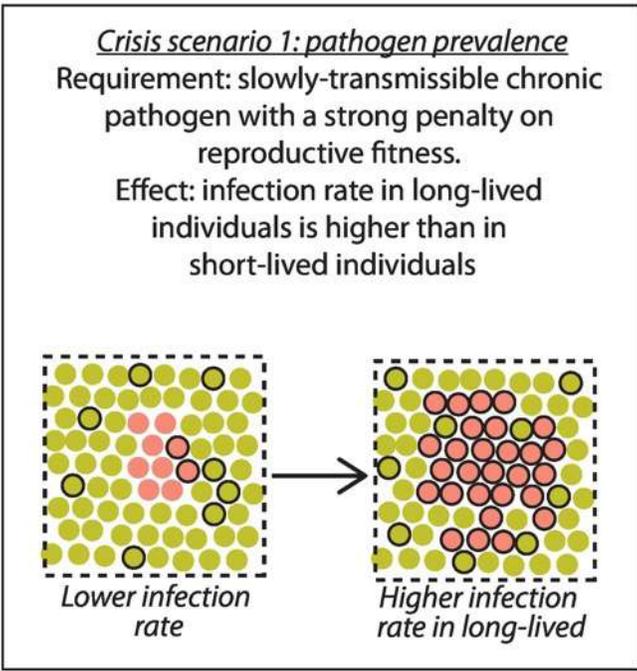
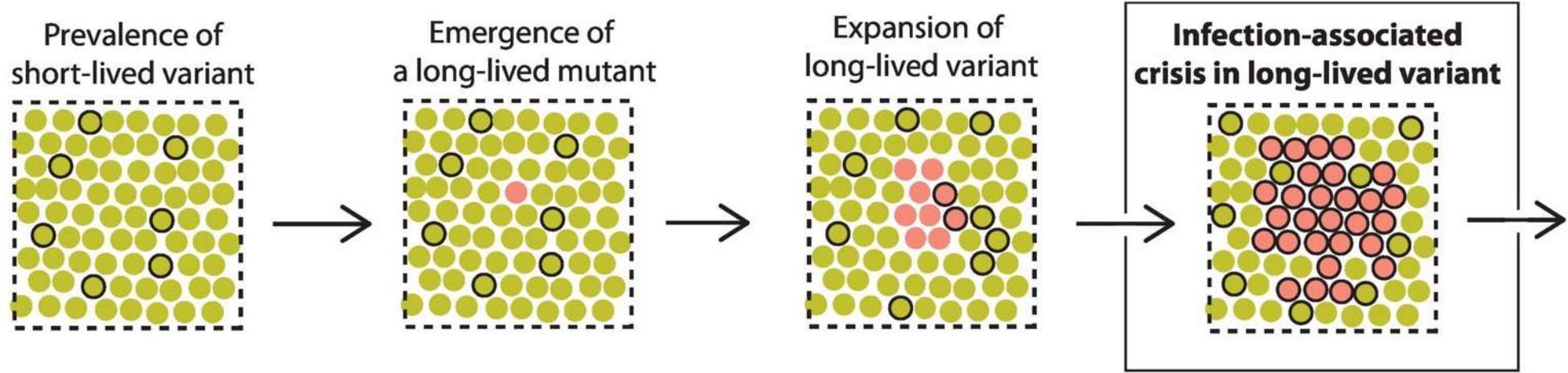
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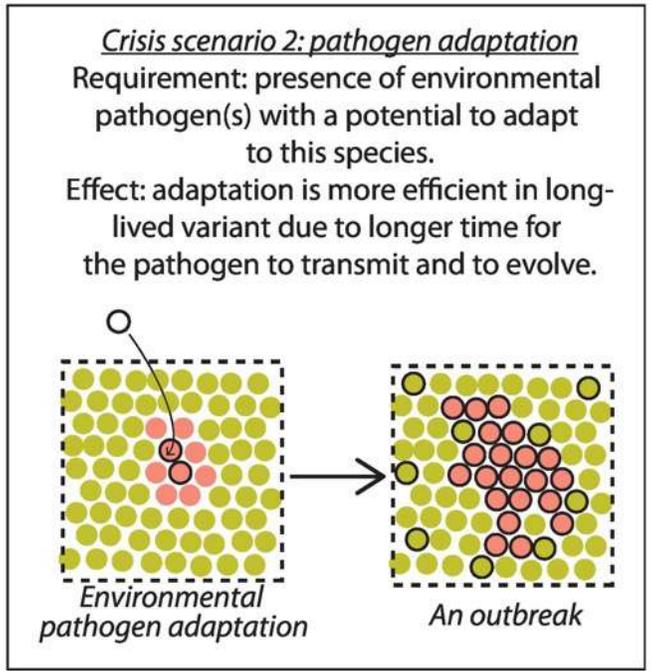
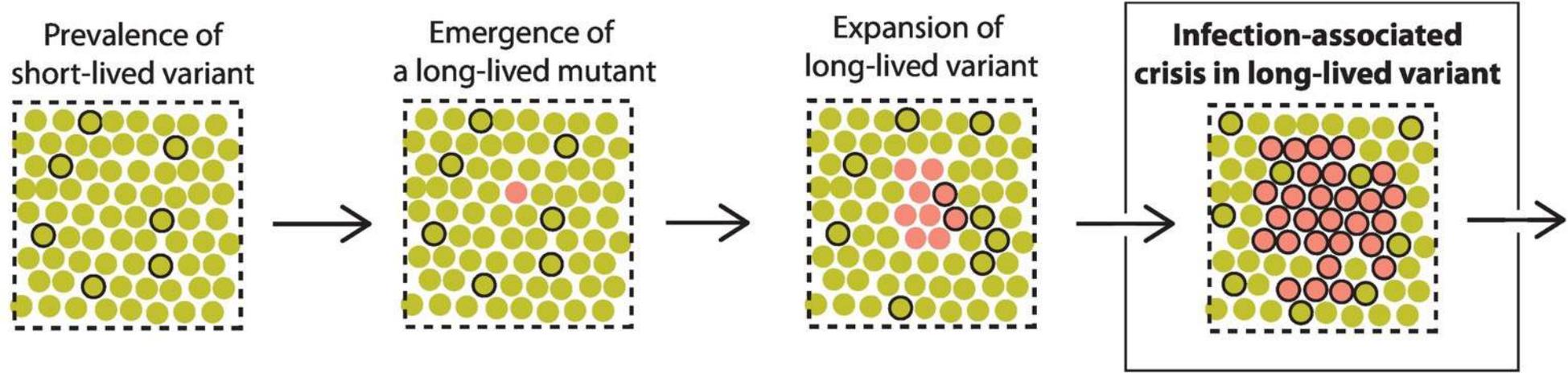
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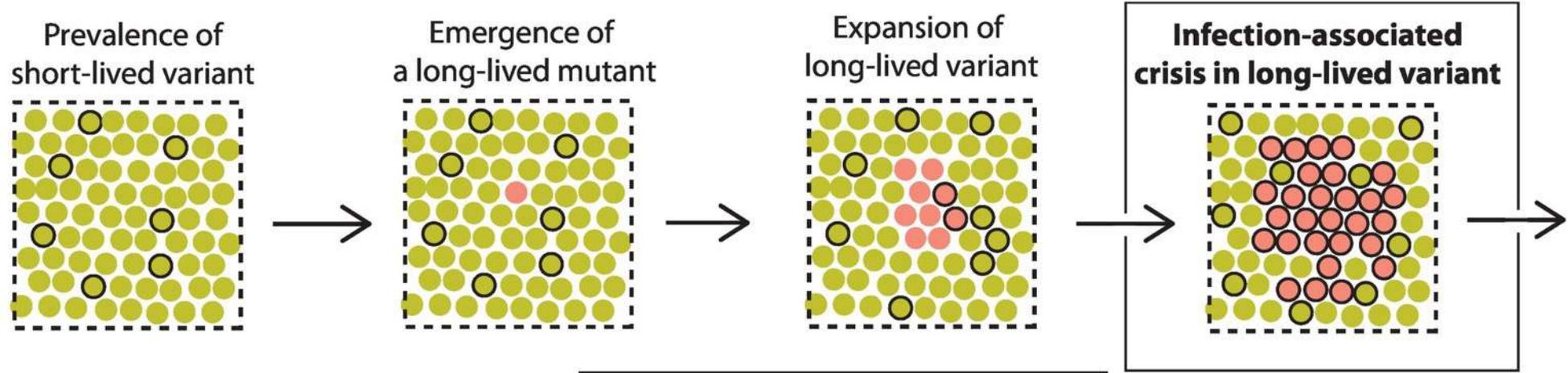
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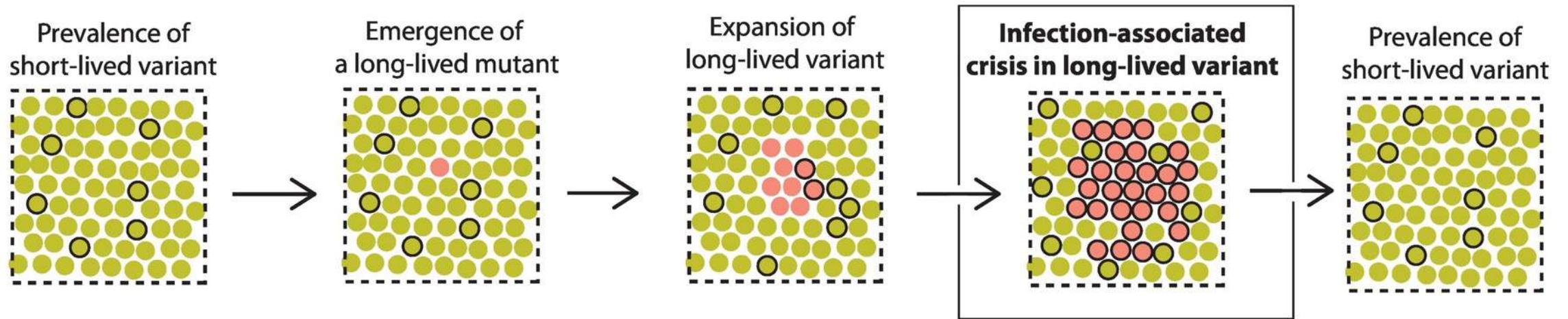
Crisis scenario 3: coinfection  
 Requirement: co-circulation of several chronic pathogens with mild effects on fitness.  
 Effect: coinfection occurs at higher level in long-lived strain causing cumulative strong effect on fitness.

Mild pathogens    Coinfection  
 ○ + ○ + ○ + ○ = ○

Lower rate of co-infections      Higher rate of co-infections



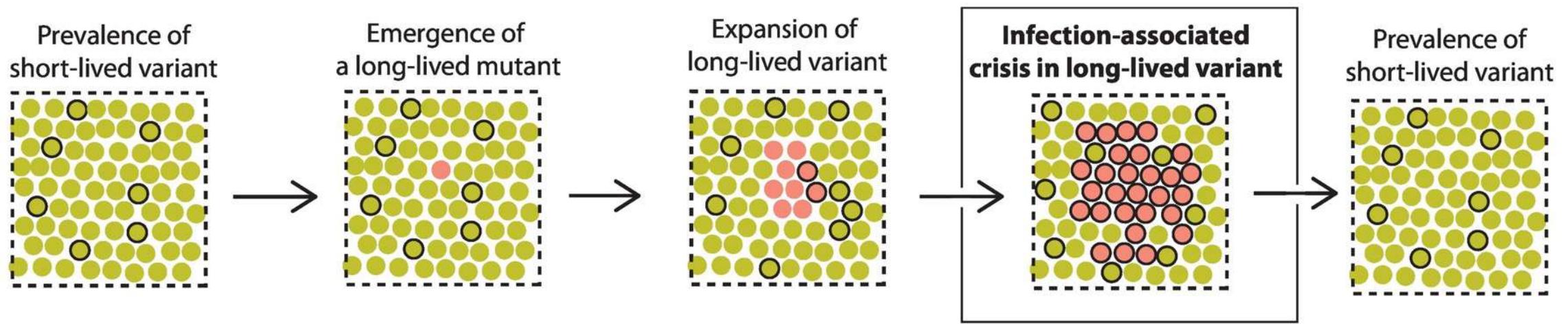
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# Theories why we age



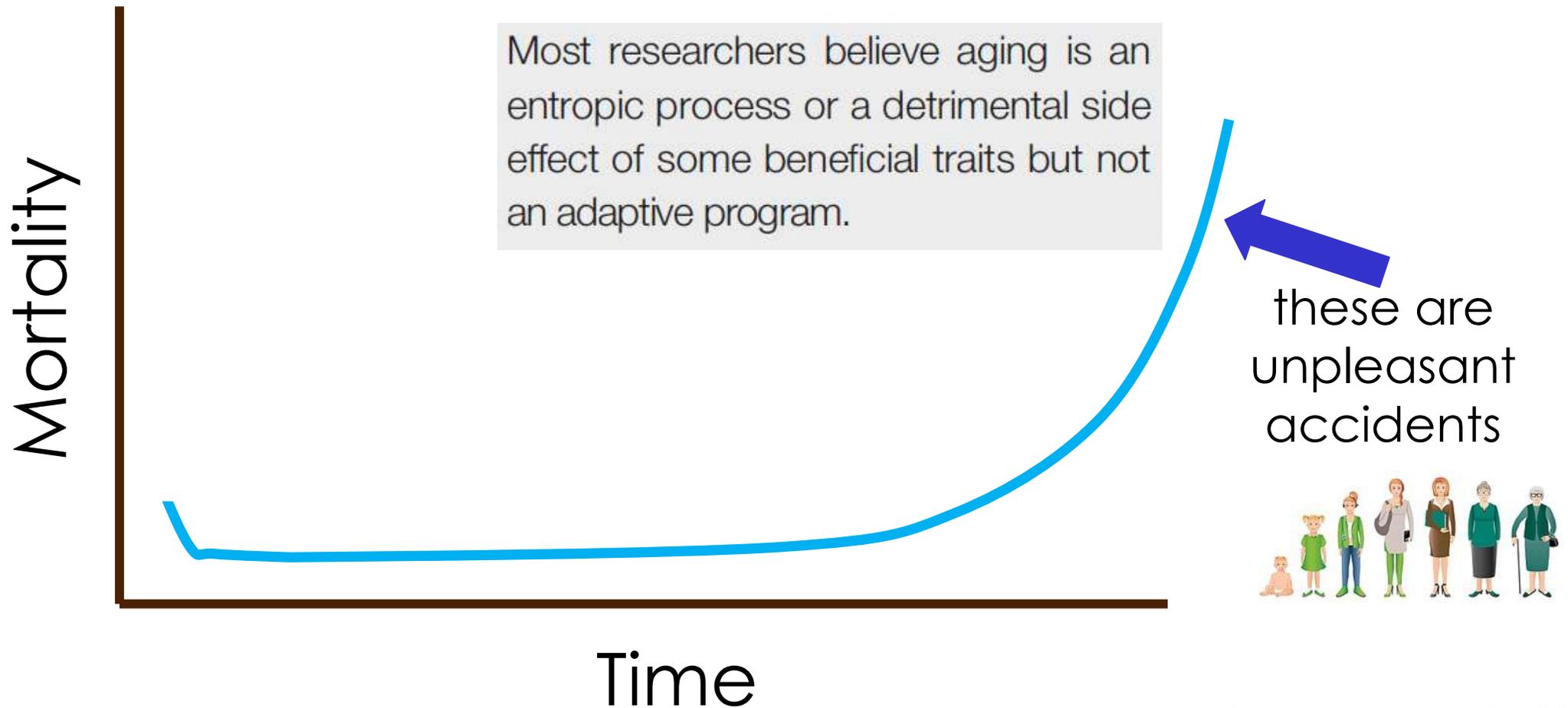
This theory explains some observations that traditional trade-off scenarios cannot explain, e.g. why longevity increases with restricted resources, or why flying birds have higher longevity (in spite of higher metabolic rates).

- - Short-lived individual
- - Long-lived individual
- - Infection



# Why do we age ?

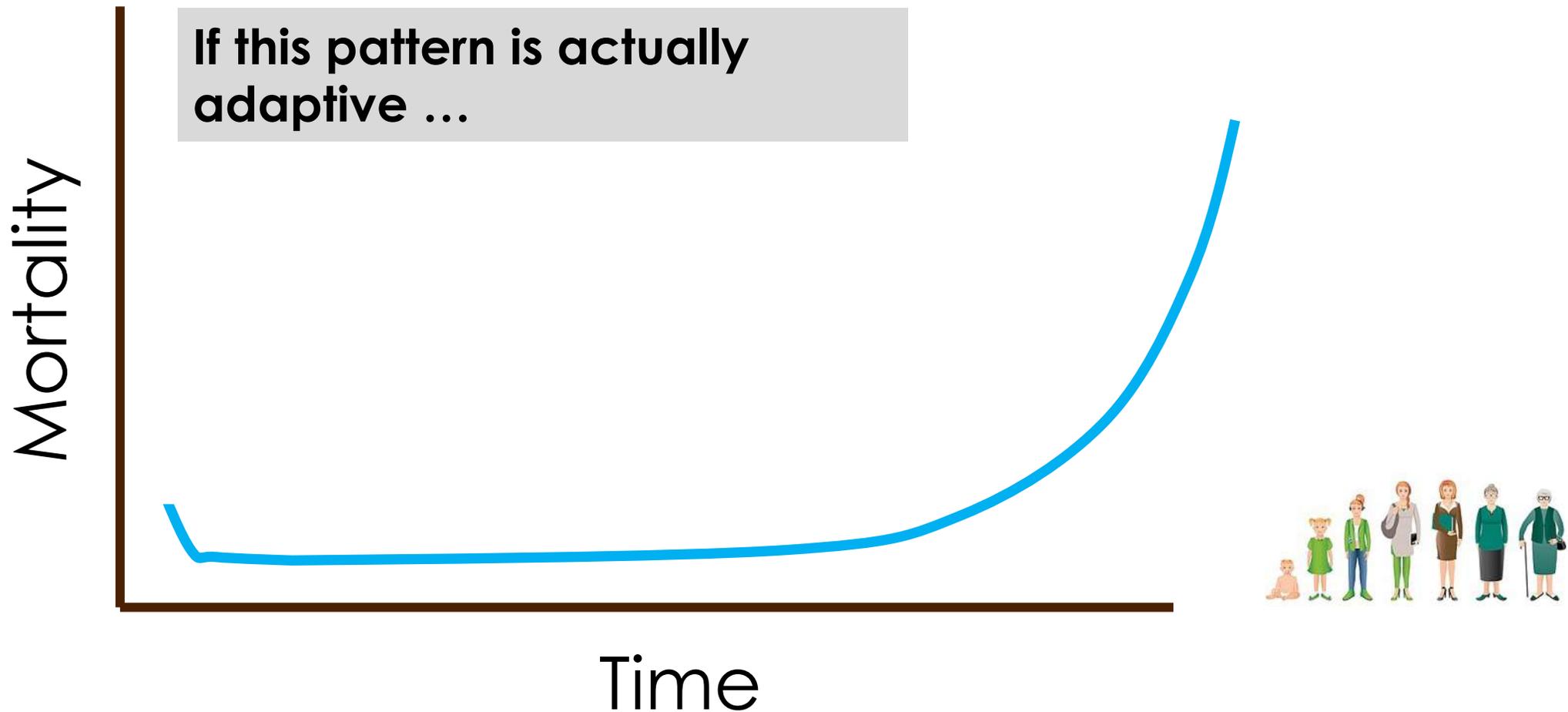
Aging = increase of mortality with time ***unrelated to extrinsic causes***





# Why do we age ?

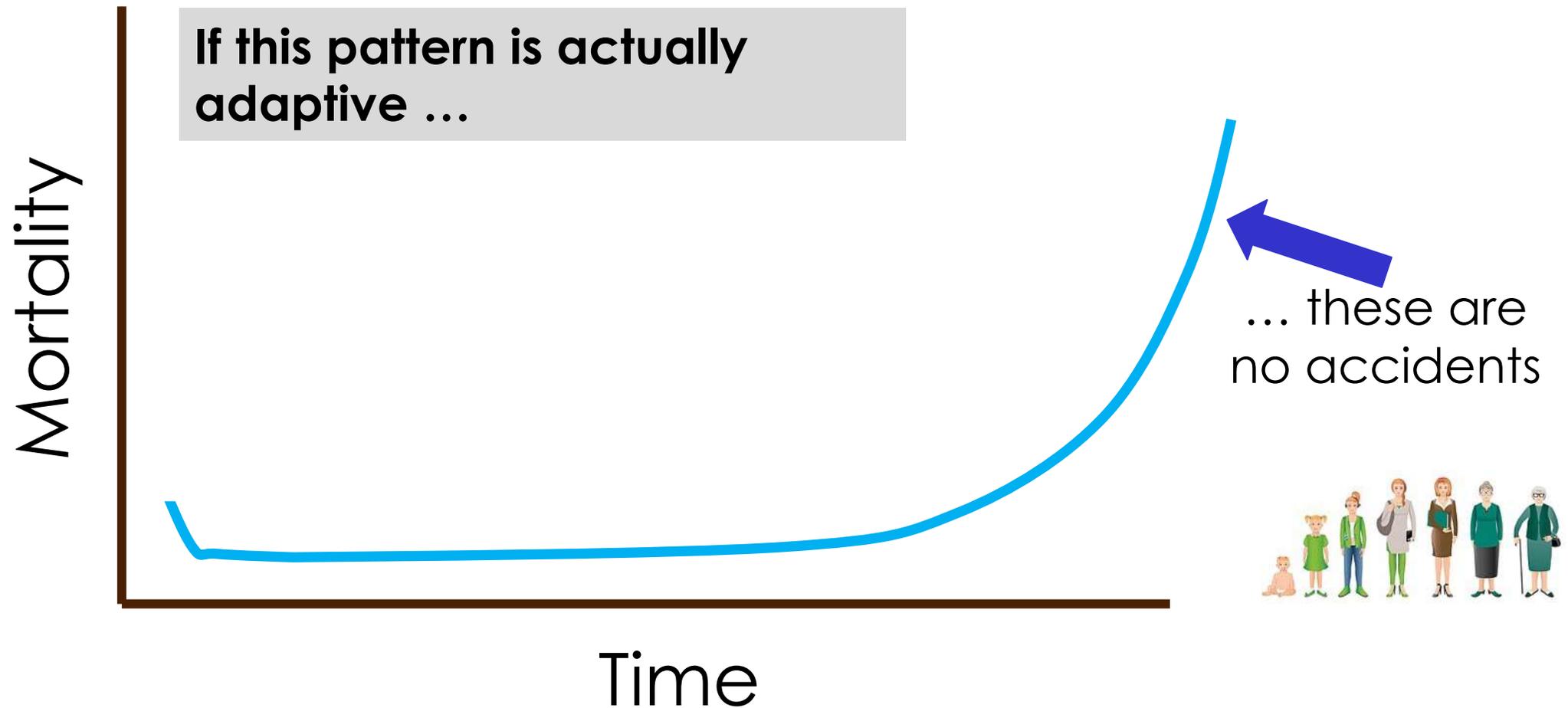
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# Why do we age ?

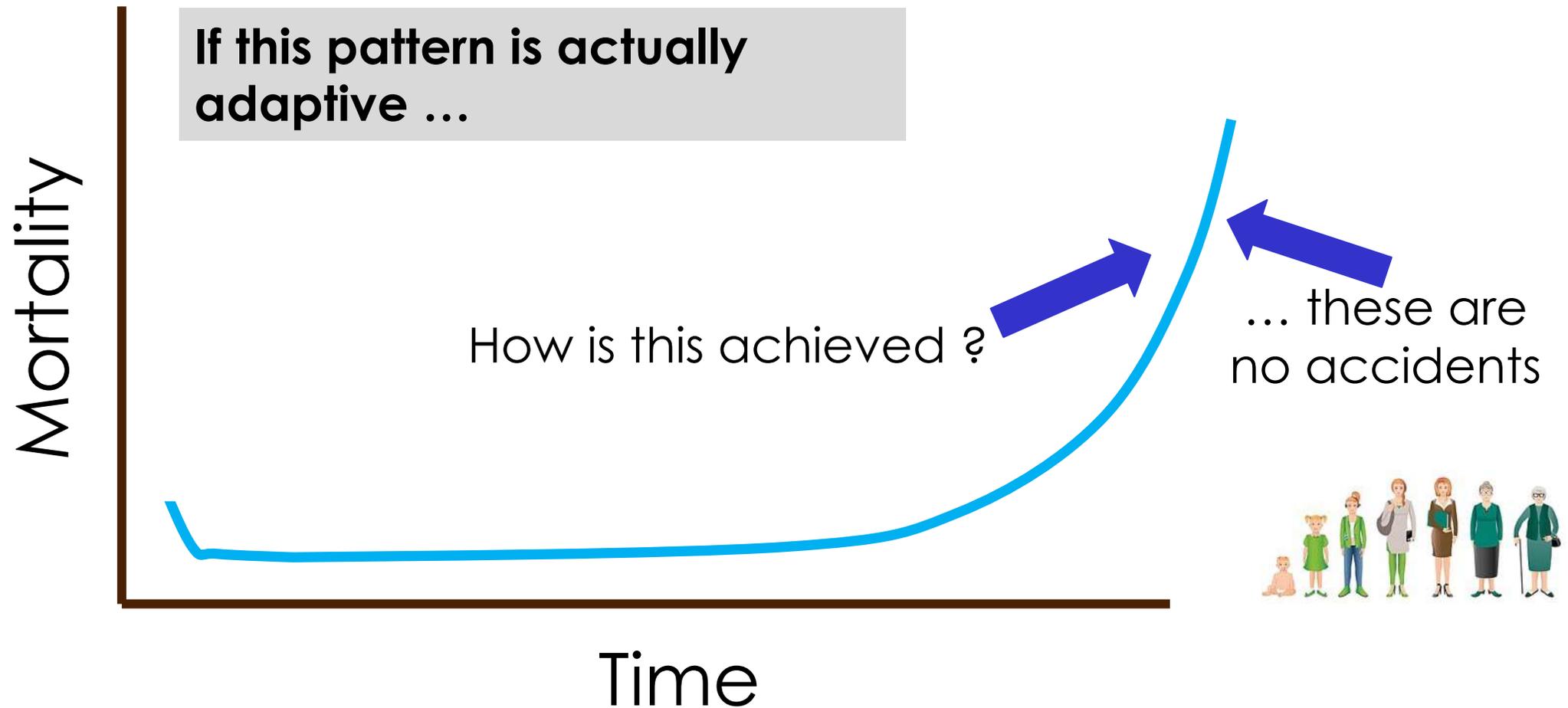
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# Why do we age ?

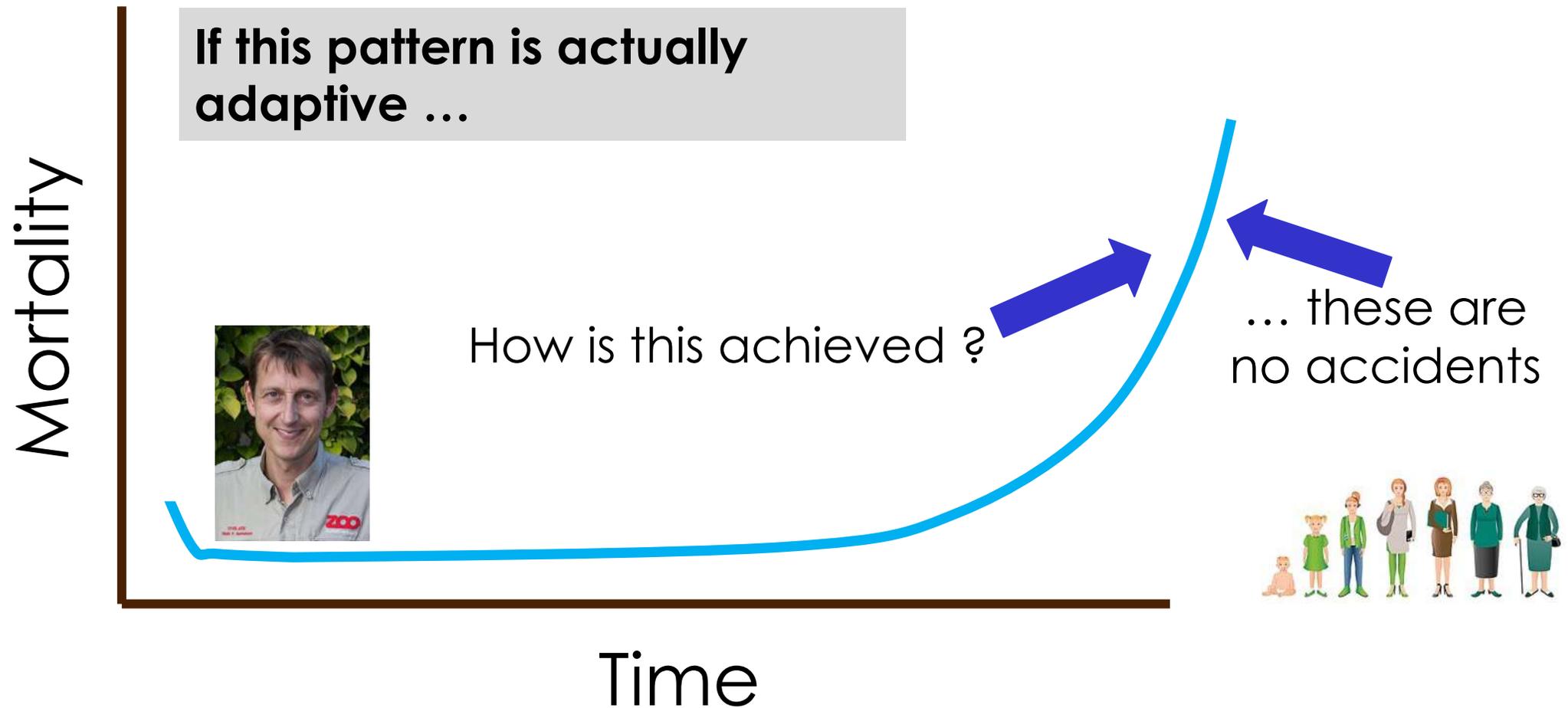
Aging = increase of mortality with time ***unrelated to extrinsic causes***





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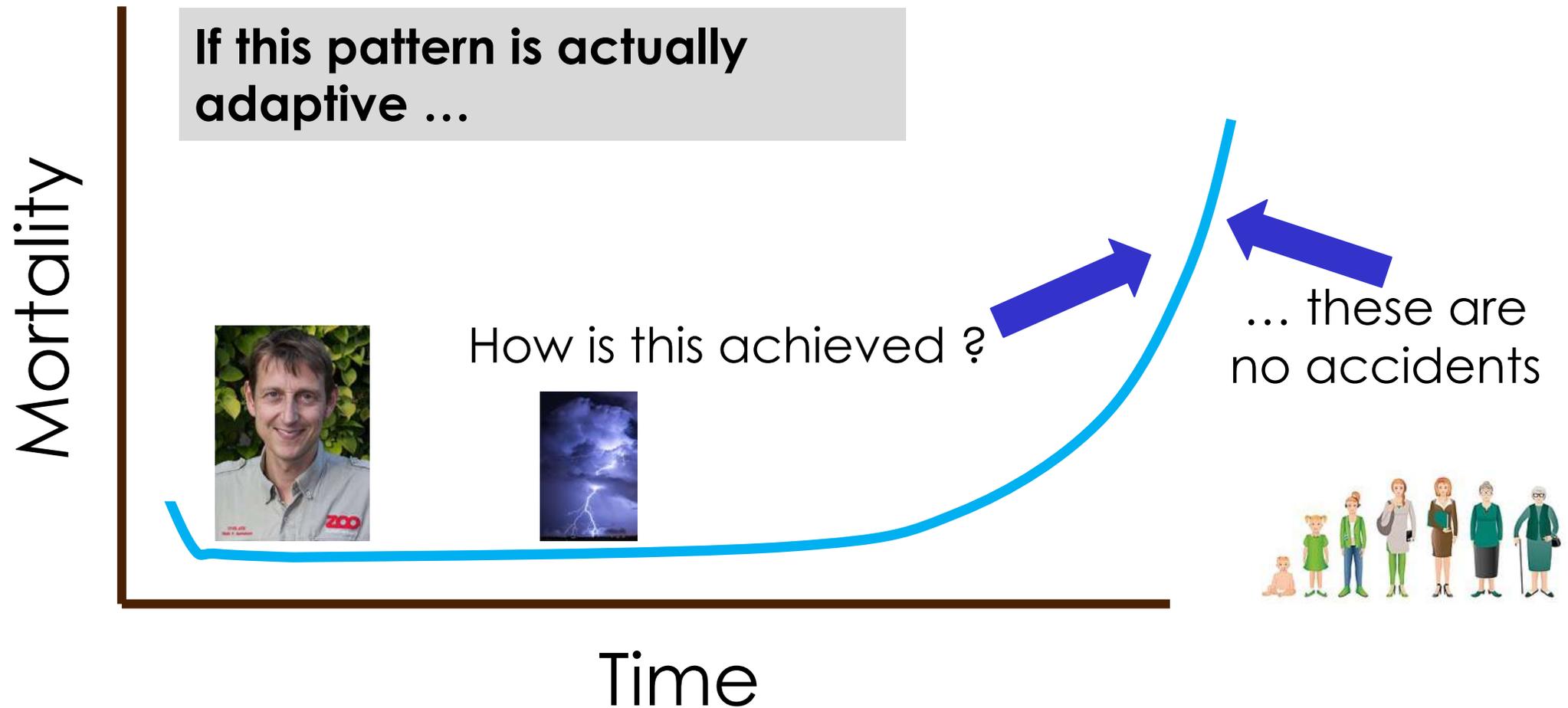
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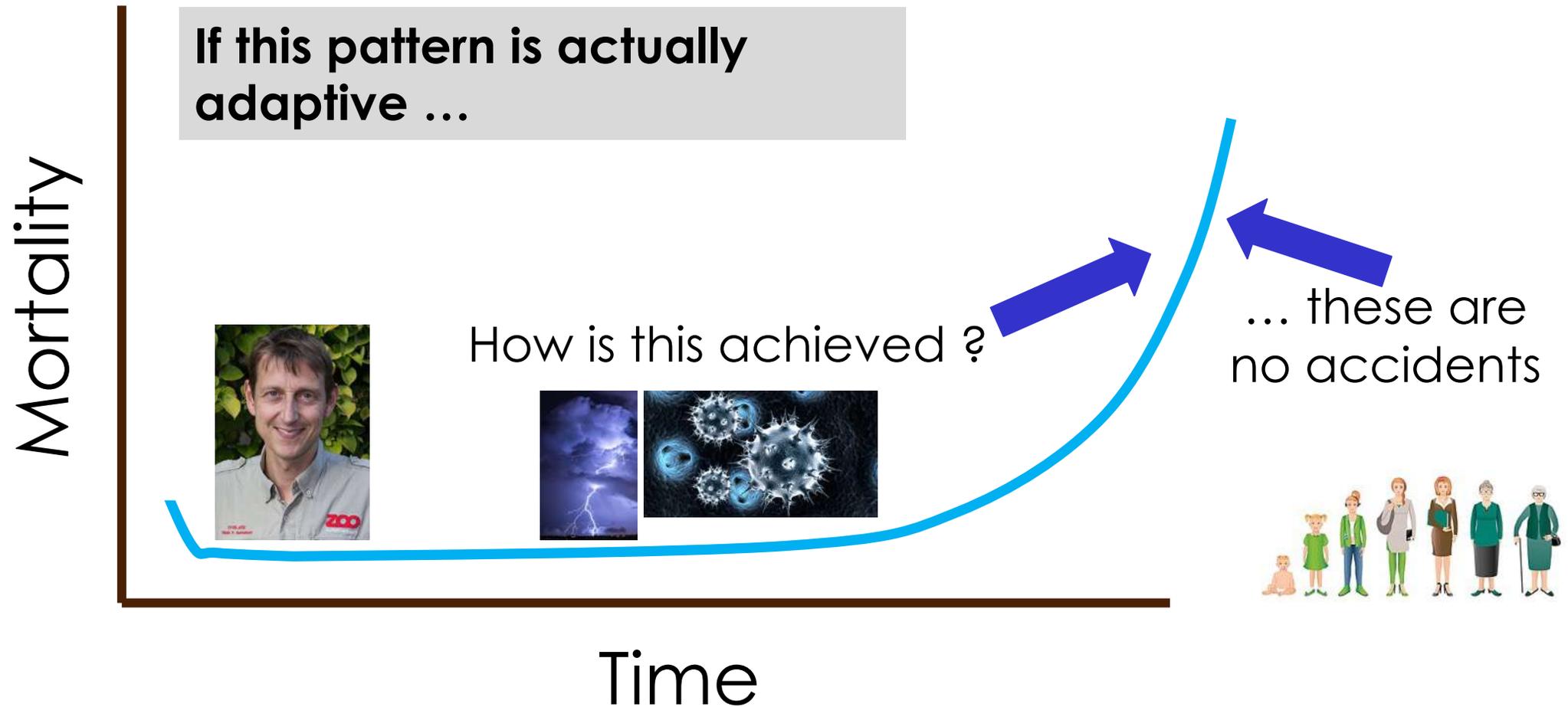
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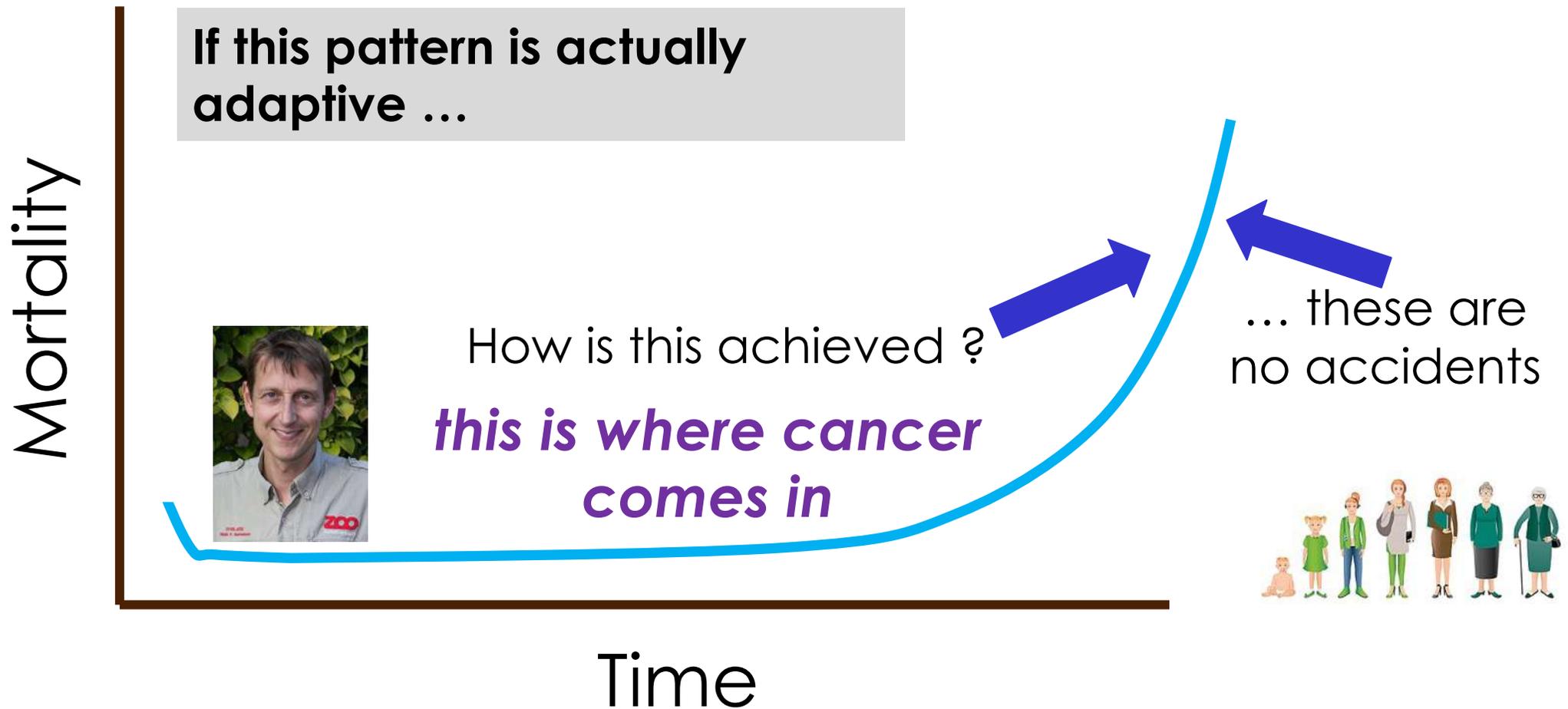
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# Why do we age ?

Aging = increase of mortality with time ***unrelated to extrinsic causes***





# How to fine-tune aging



# Cancer as a consequence of the adaptation for aging

Cancer occurs if the body does not prevent it.



## Cancer as a consequence of the adaptation for aging

Cancer occurs if the body does not prevent it.

Reducing cancer prevention could be an adaptation to achieve aging.



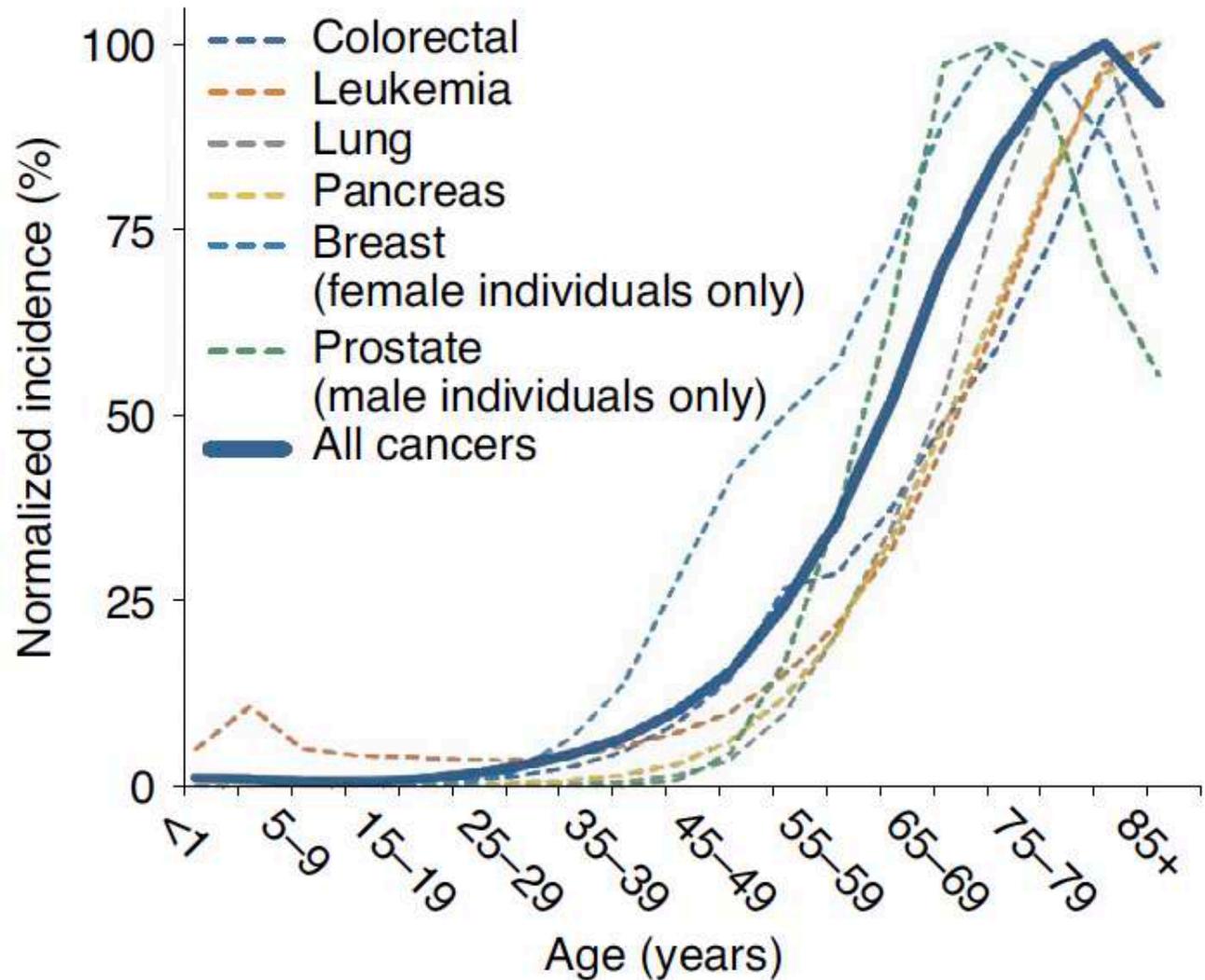
# The importance of aging in cancer research

Cancer is a disease of aging



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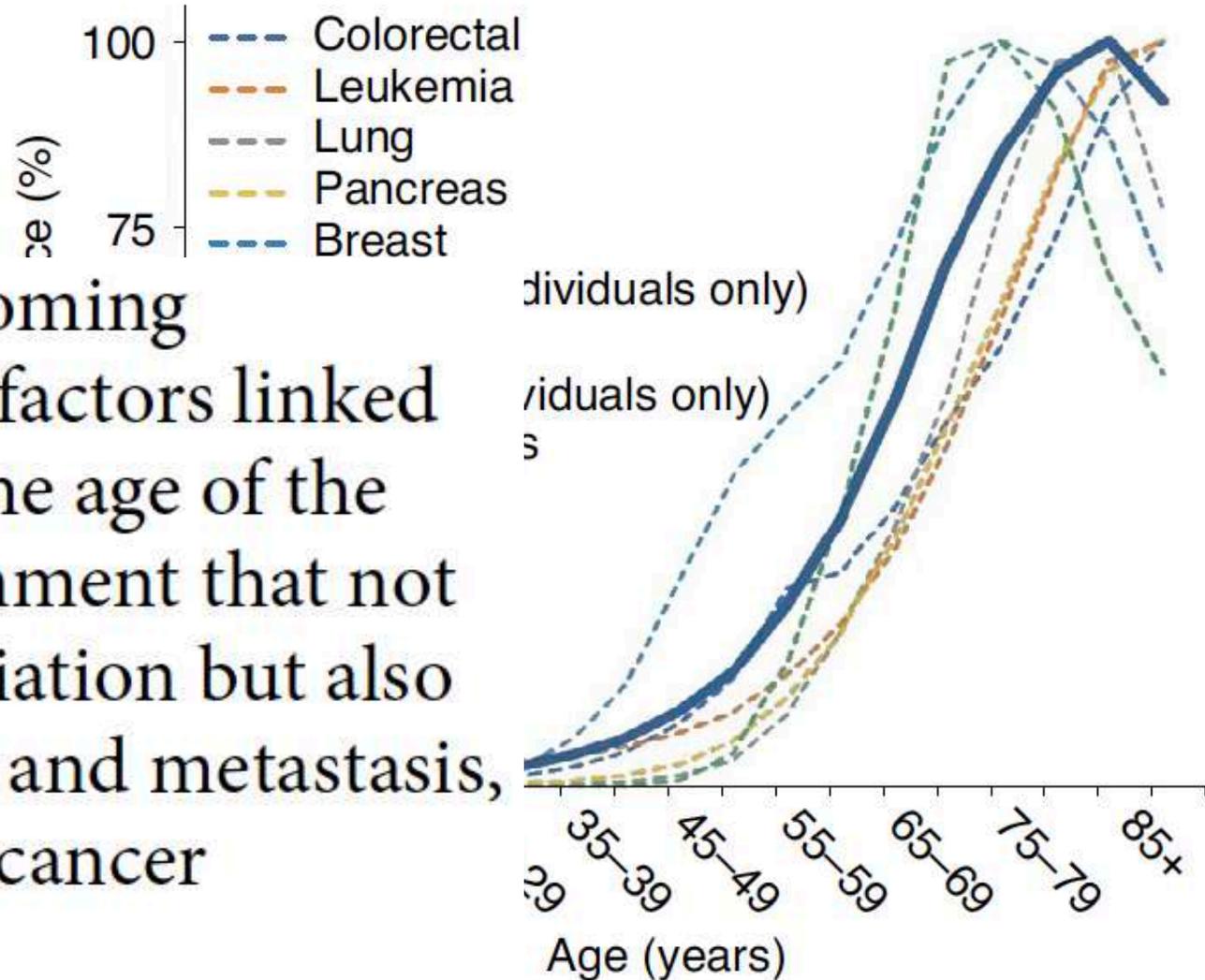




# The importance of aging in cancer research

Cancer is a disease of aging

Thus, it is becoming increasingly clear that many factors linked to the biology of aging and the age of the host contribute to an environment that not only can promote tumor initiation but also influence tumor progression and metastasis, and even affect resistance to cancer treatments.





# *Cancer 101*



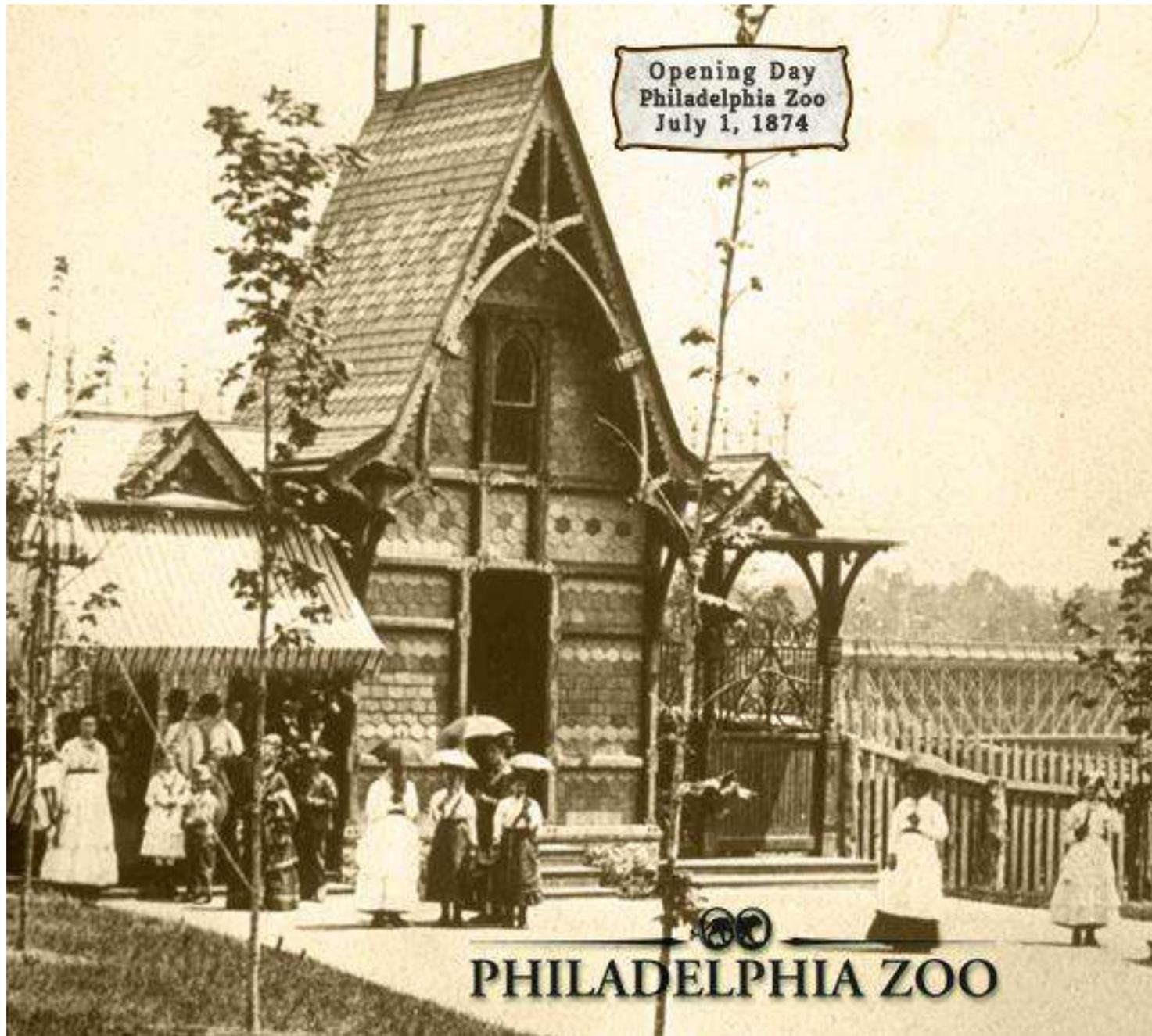
# ***Cancer 101***

*to get cancer, you have to get old*



*PHILADELPHIA ZOO*





**THE  
PHILADELPHIA ZOO**

**"America's First Zoo."  
Chartered 1859 as the  
Zoological Society  
of Philadelphia. A  
wildlife refuge and  
a zoological garden,  
the zoo has long been  
committed to fulfilling  
its public mission:  
conservation, research,  
education, recreation.**

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION 1986



# CANCER RESEARCH

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VOLUME 19

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The American  
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(1933)

HERBERT L. RATCLIFFE

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Cebidae .....	2-4	10-20	1.3	10.3	—
<b>CARNIVORA</b> .....			1.6	—	—
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<b>ARTIODACTYLA</b> .....			6.5	13.7	6.66
Bovidae .....	2-4	10-20	5.3	10.6	1.84
Cervidae .....	2-3	10-15	4.3	10.7	2.45
<b>RODENTIA</b> .....			3.5	—	—
Muridae .....	3 mo.-1 yr.	2-5	1.9	4.3	5.57
Sciuridae .....	3 mo.-1 yr.	2-6	2.2	3.6	14.92
<b>MARSUPIALIA</b> .....			1.5	4.2	4.50
Macropodidae .....	3	15-20	2.0	3.3	2.41
Didelphyidae .....	1	5-8	2.1	8.9	1.74
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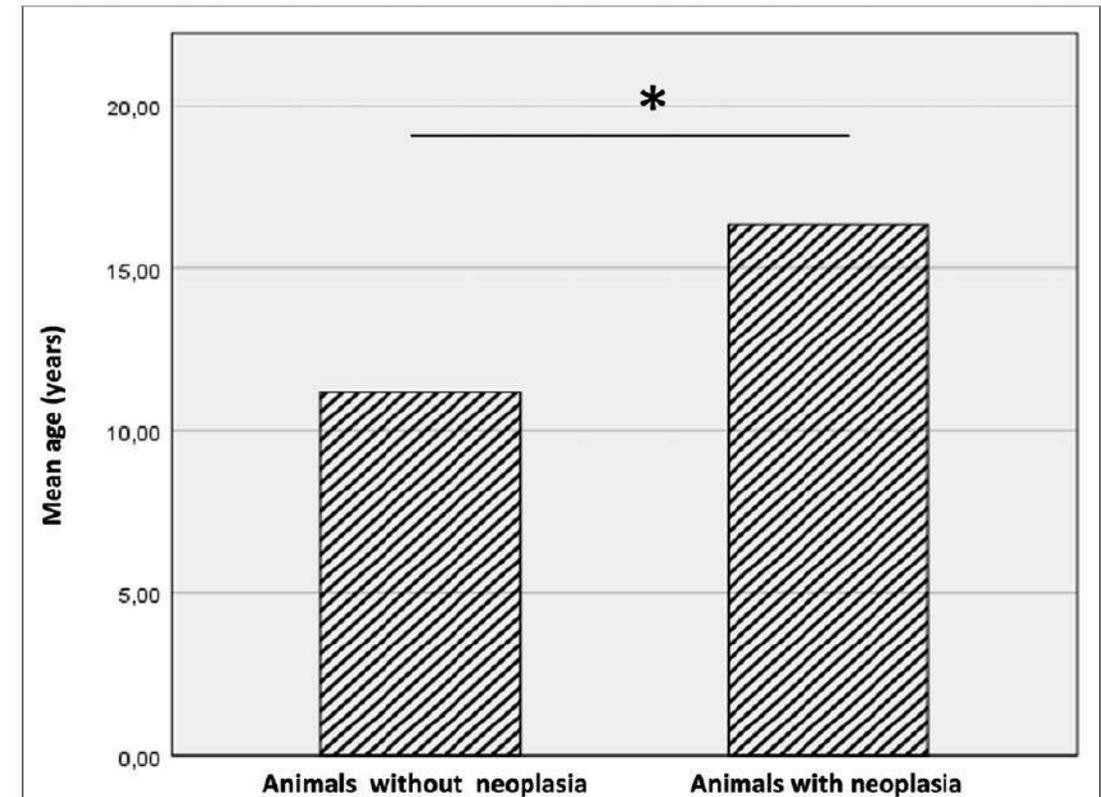
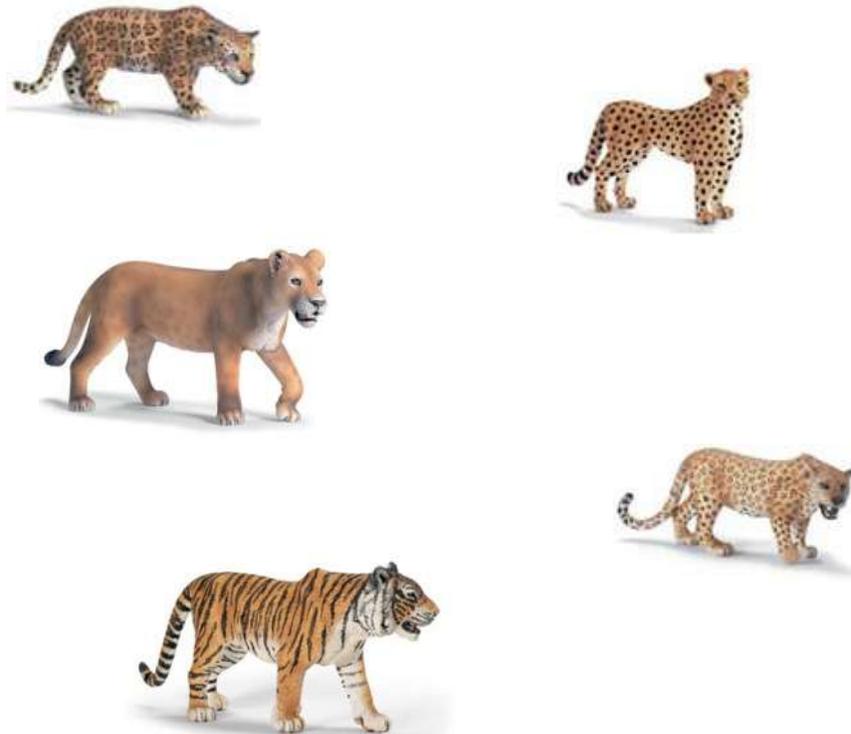
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# An Overview of Neoplasia in Captive Wild Felids in Southern Italy Zoos

Frontiers in Veterinary Science |  
May 2022 | Volume 9 | Article 899481

*Ilaria d'Aquino*<sup>1\*</sup>, *Giuseppe Piegari*<sup>1,2</sup>, *Silvia Mariagiovanna Casciaro*<sup>1,2</sup>,  
*Francesco Prisco*<sup>1</sup>, *Guido Rosato*<sup>2</sup>, *Pasquale Silvestre*<sup>3</sup>, *Barbara Degli Uberti*<sup>4</sup>,  
*Michele Capasso*<sup>5</sup>, *Piero Laricchiuta*<sup>6</sup>, *Orlando Paciello*<sup>1,2</sup> and *Valeria Russo*<sup>1</sup>



**FIGURE 1** | Mean age of animals with and without neoplasia. The animals with cancer were significantly older than animals without neoplasms. The \* symbol indicates the value of  $P < 0.05$ .



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(1) Susceptibility to tumor growth may be equal in all of the groups studied, but unequal adaptability to captive conditions may not allow equal opportunity for tumor development; or (2) the differences in tumor incidence found in this series may be expressions of natural resistance or susceptibility to neoplasia.

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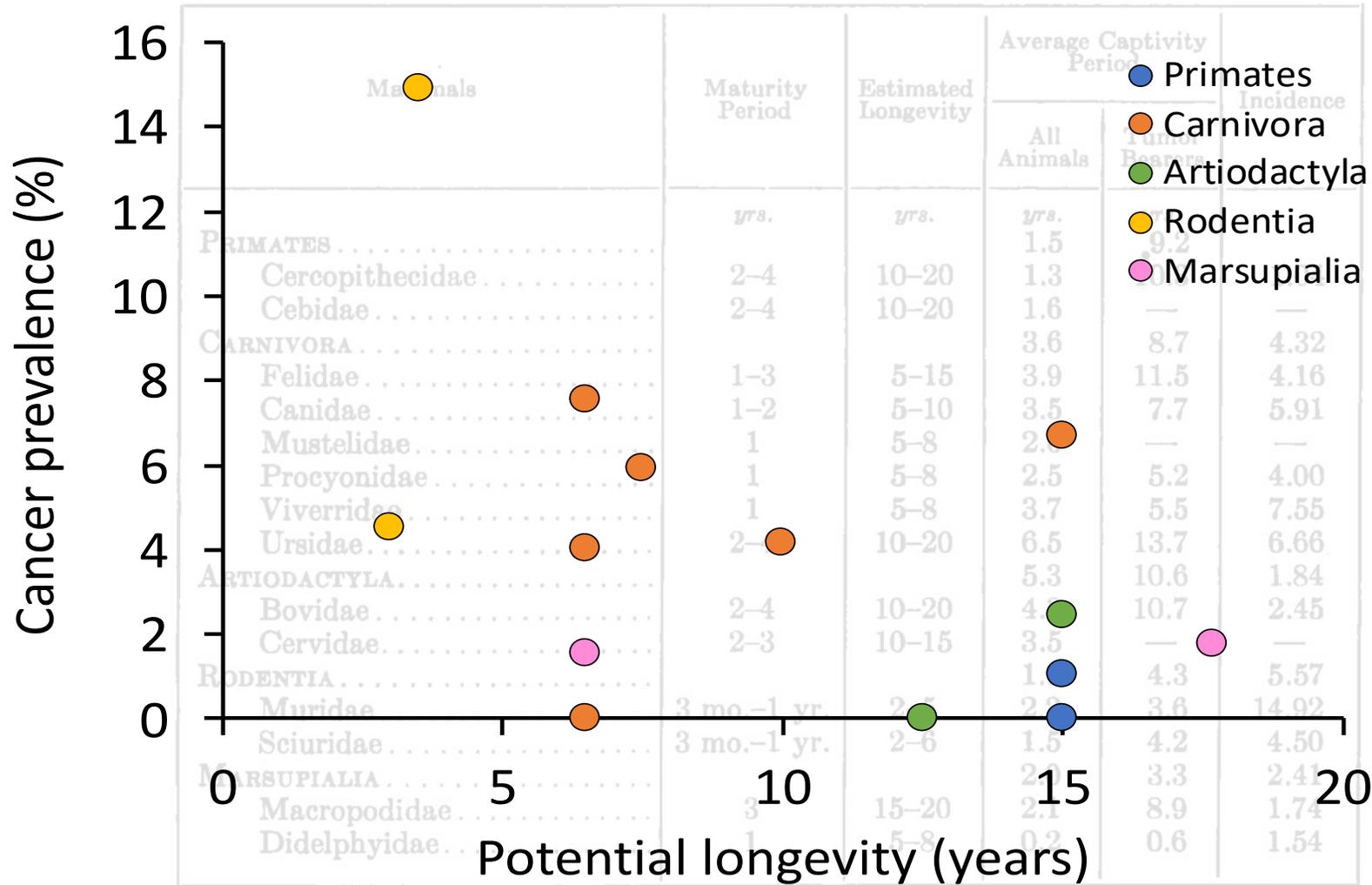
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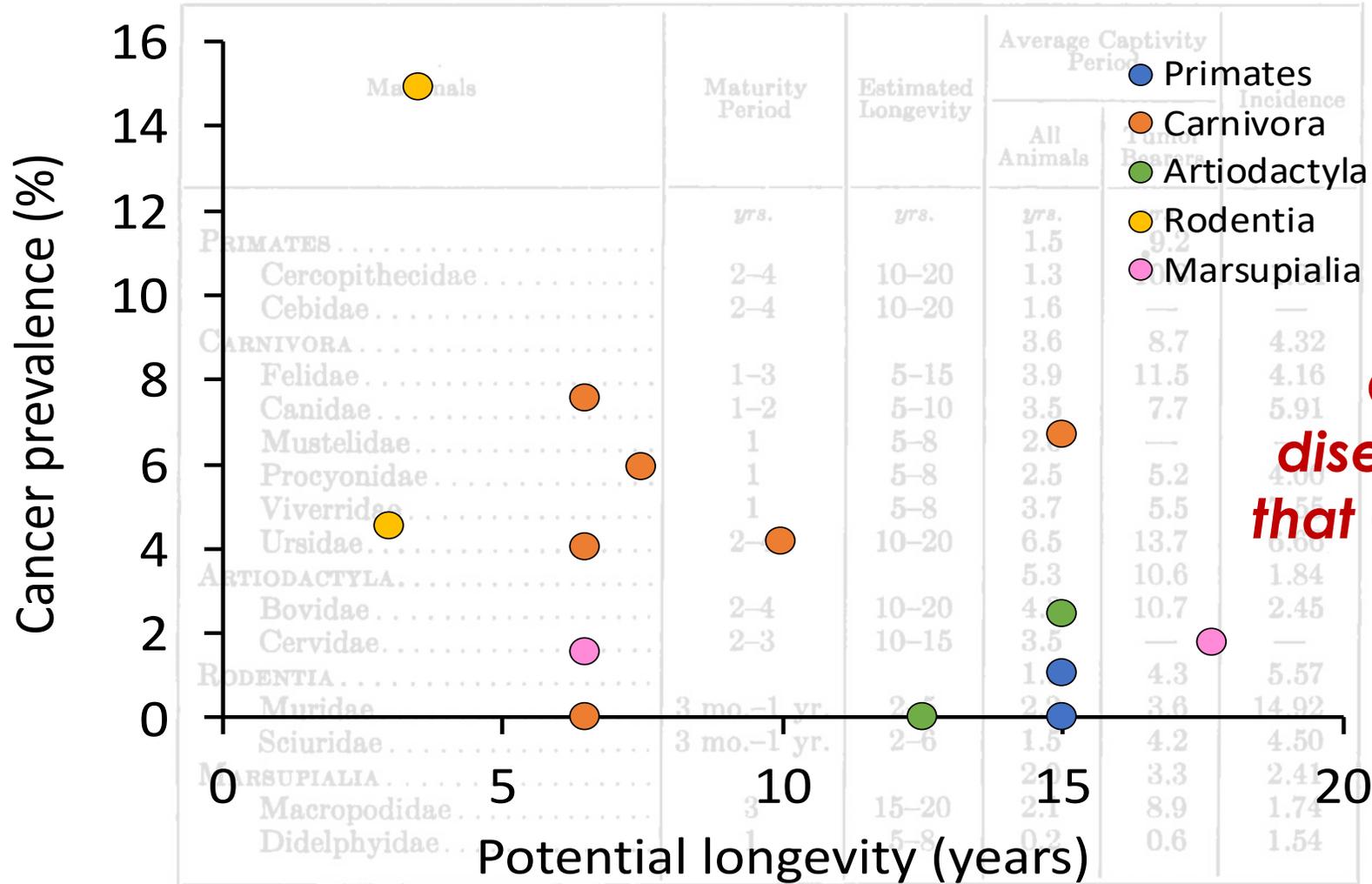




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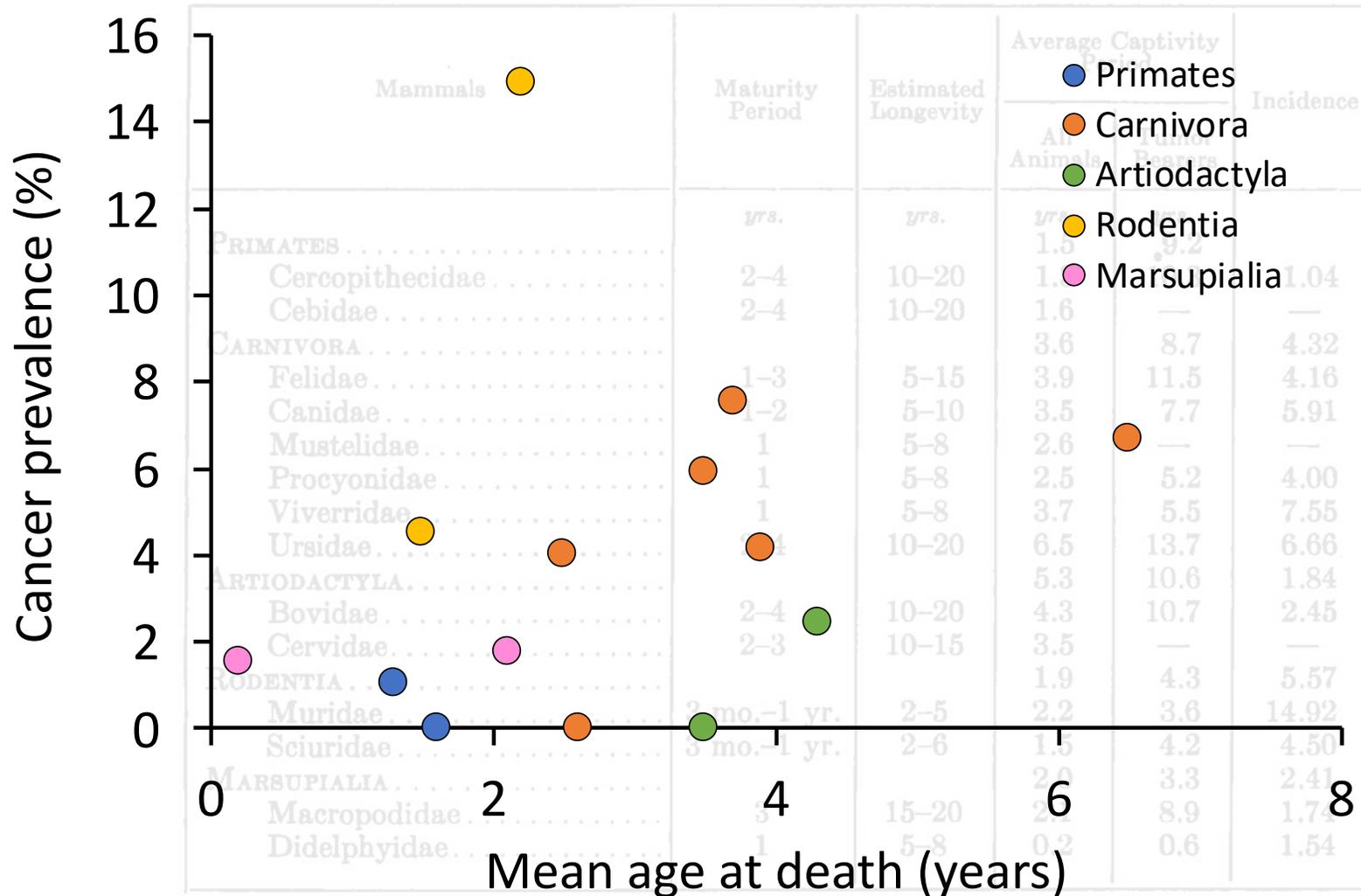
**Cancer is not a disease of animals that CAN live many years.**



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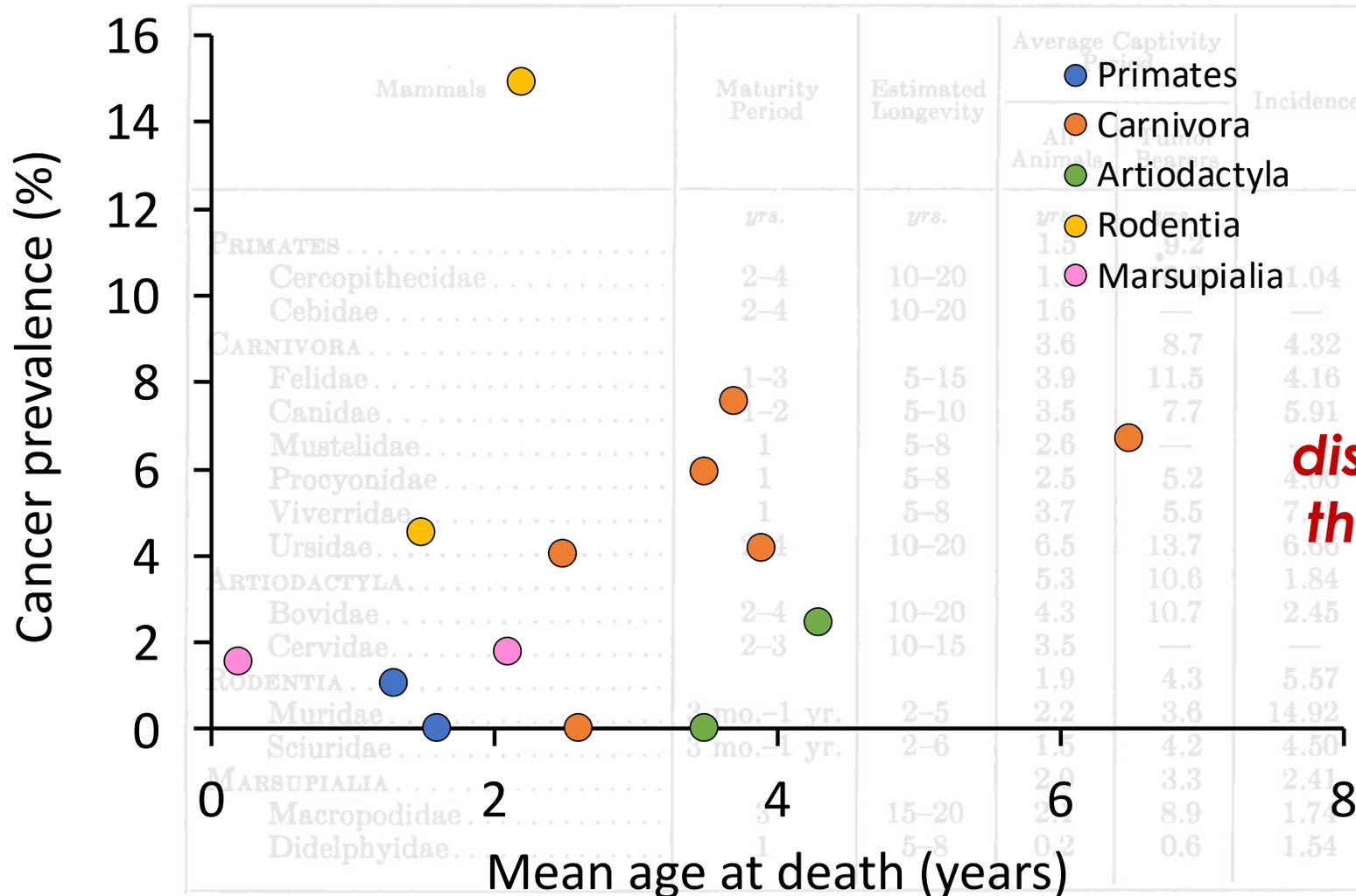




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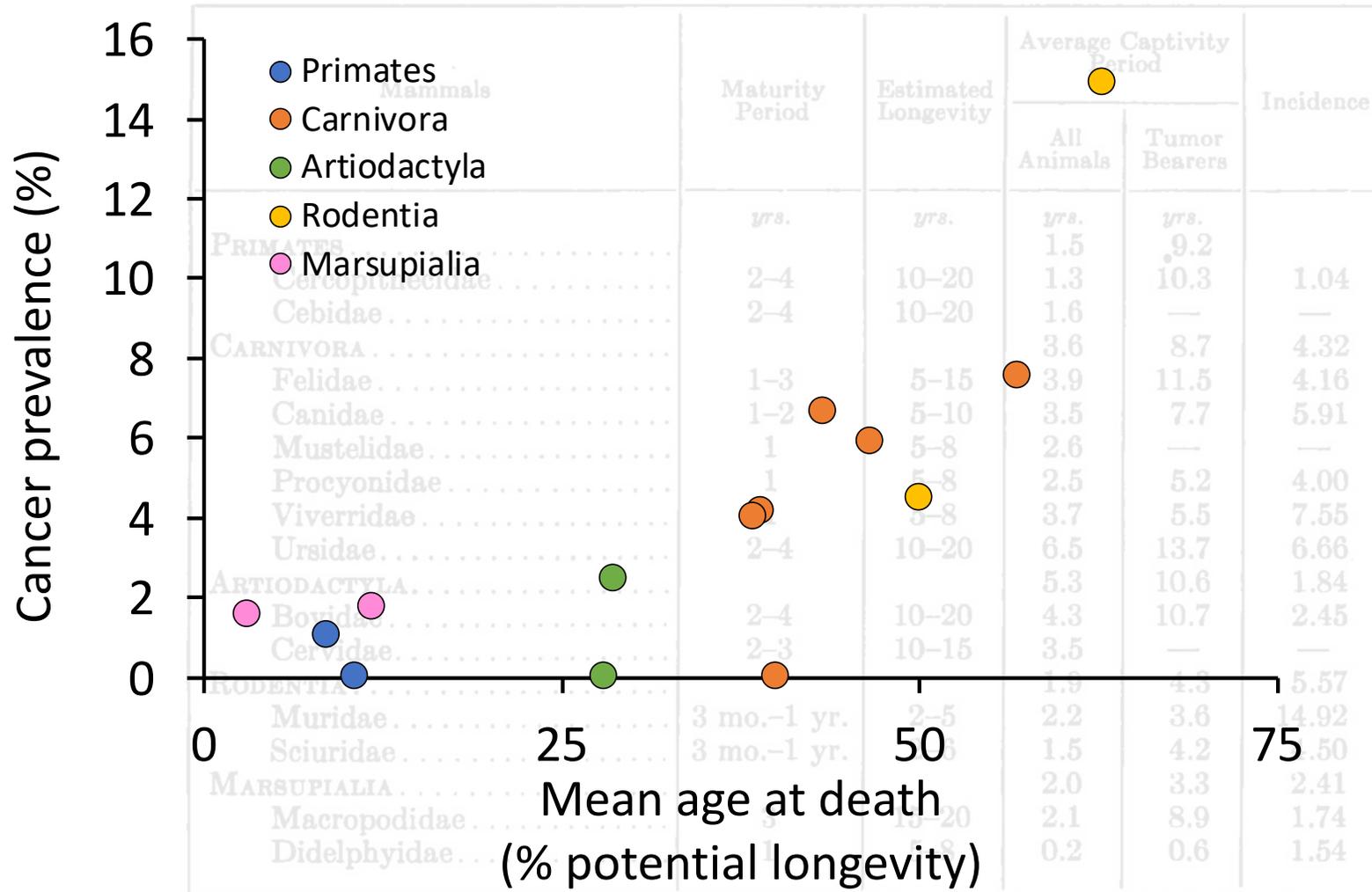
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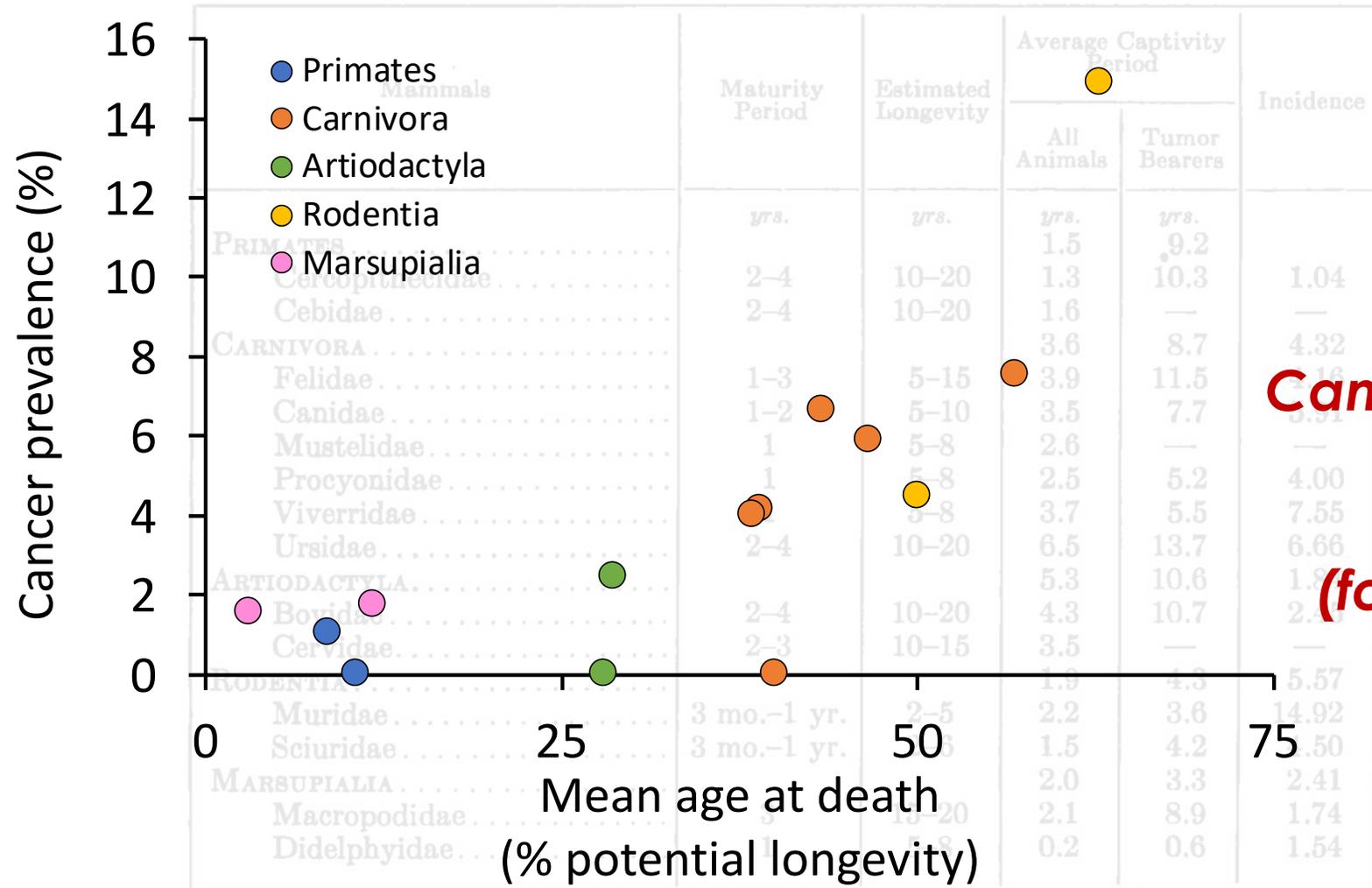




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**Cancer is a disease of animals that ARE OLD (for their species).**



# Diseases of Dasyurid Marsupials

1993

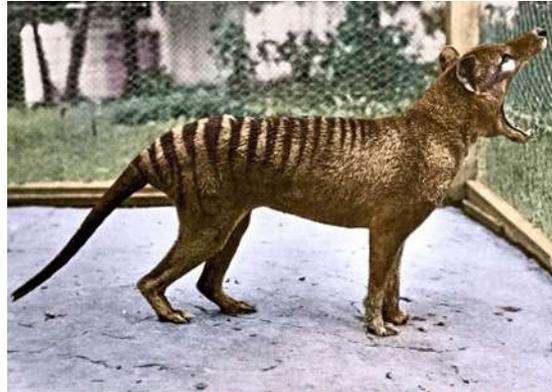
**David L. Obendorf**

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# Dasyurids

Thylacine



Tasmanian devil



Quoll



Numbat



Antechinus



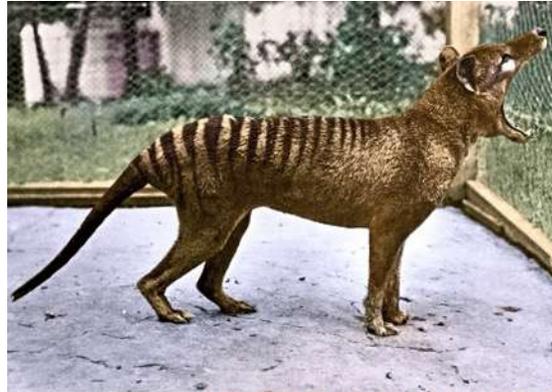
Dunnart





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# Diseases of Dasyurid Marsupials

1993

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Tumors are particularly prevalent in captive dasyurids (Barker et al., 1963; Attwood and Woolley, 1973).

Eastern quolls and Tasmanian devils rarely live longer than two and four years respectively in the wild (Godsell, 1982; Green, 1967). Life expectancy in captivity can be twice as long as in the wild but a variety of degenerative diseases occur in older animals.



# *Cancer 101*

*to get cancer, you have to get old*



# ***Cancer 202***

*to get cancer, you have to get old*



# ***Cancer 202***

*to get cancer, you have to get old  
(and to get old, you must not die of other stuff)*



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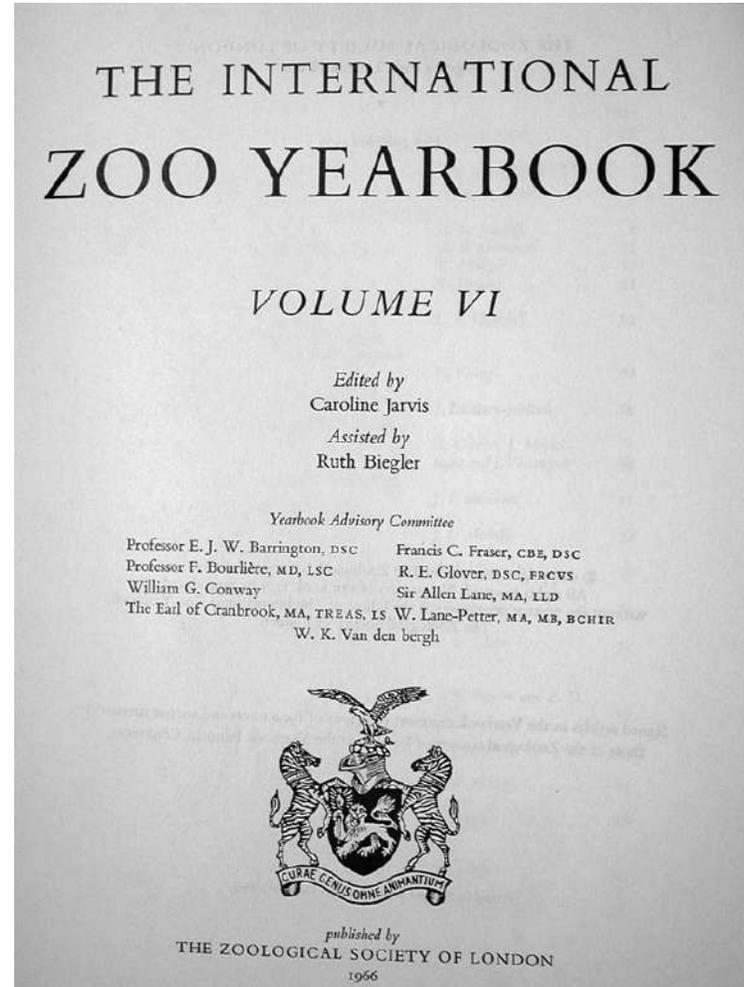
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**Director, Penrose Research Laboratory, Zoological Society of  
Philadelphia, and Professor of Comparative Pathology,  
University of Pennsylvania, U S A**

# FEEDING WILD ANIMALS IN ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

*by Hans Wackernagel*

**Scientific Assistant, Basle Zoological Garden, Switzerland**



## THE INTERNATIONAL ZOO YEARBOOK

*VOLUME VI*

*Edited by  
Caroline Jarvis*

*Assisted by  
Ruth Biegler*

*Yearbook Advisory Committee*

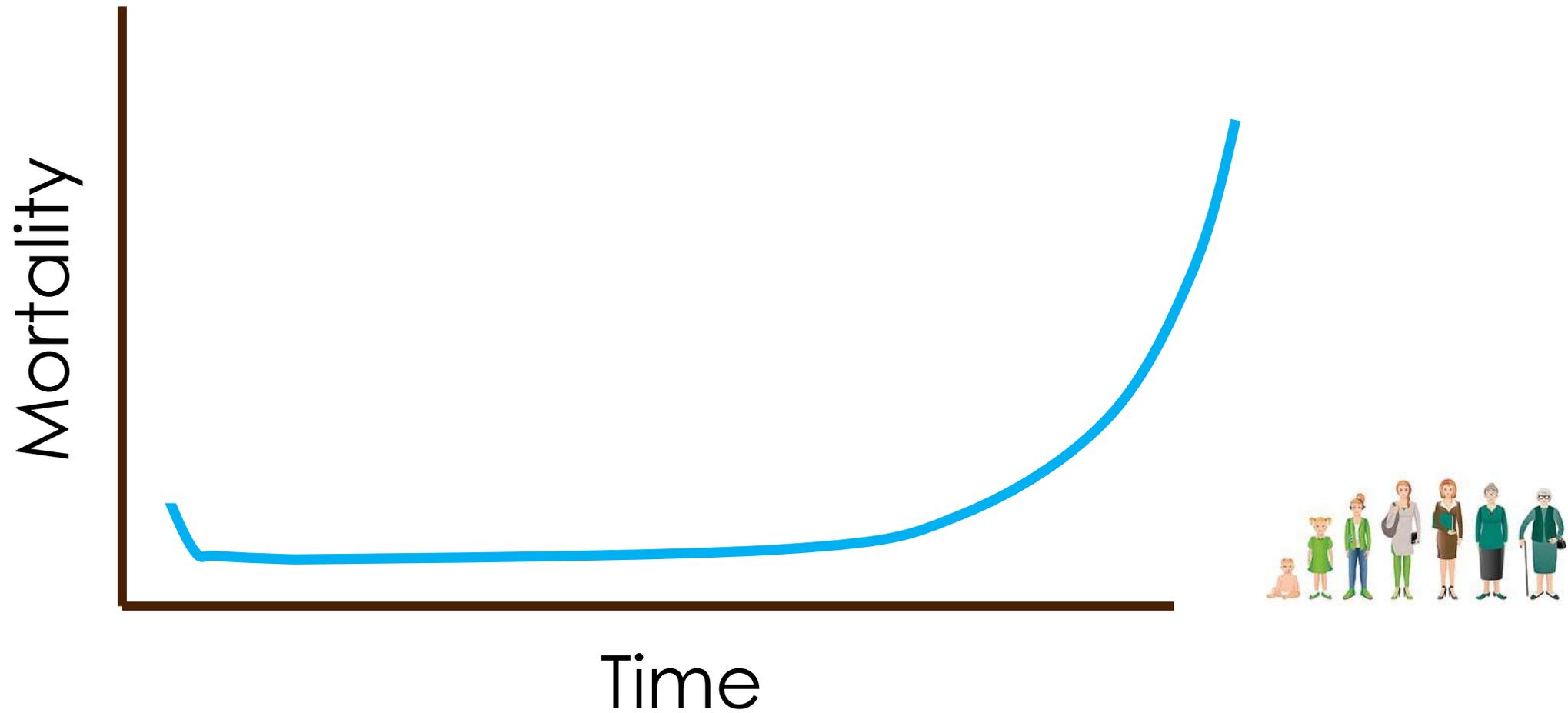
Professor E. J. W. Barrington, DSC      Francis C. Fraser, CBE, DSC  
Professor F. Bourlière, MD, LSC      R. E. Glover, DSC, FRCVS  
William G. Conway      Sir Allen Lane, MA, LL.D.  
The Earl of Cranbrook, MA, TREAS. LS      W. Lane-Petter, MA, MB, BCHIR  
W. K. Van den Bergh



*published by*  
THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON  
1966

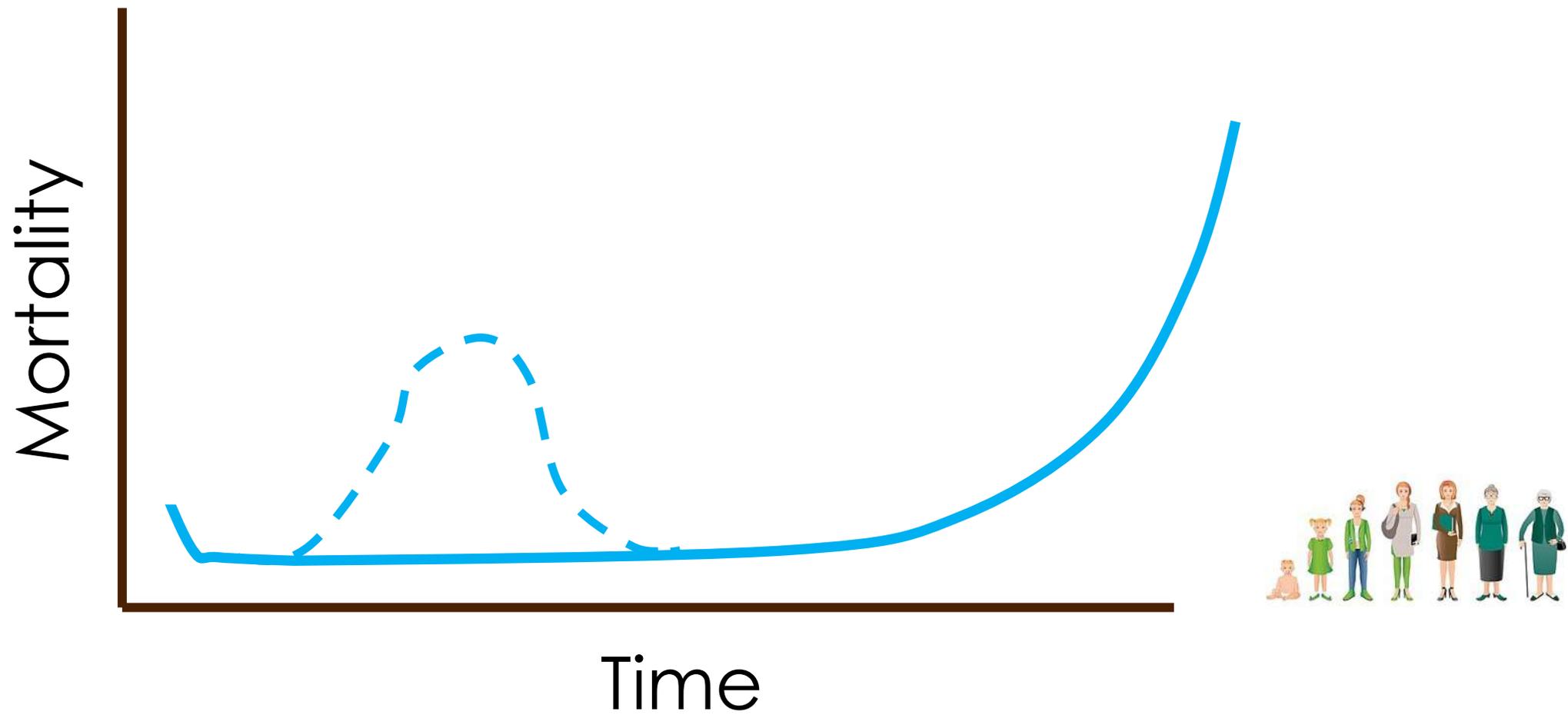


# Patterns of mortality





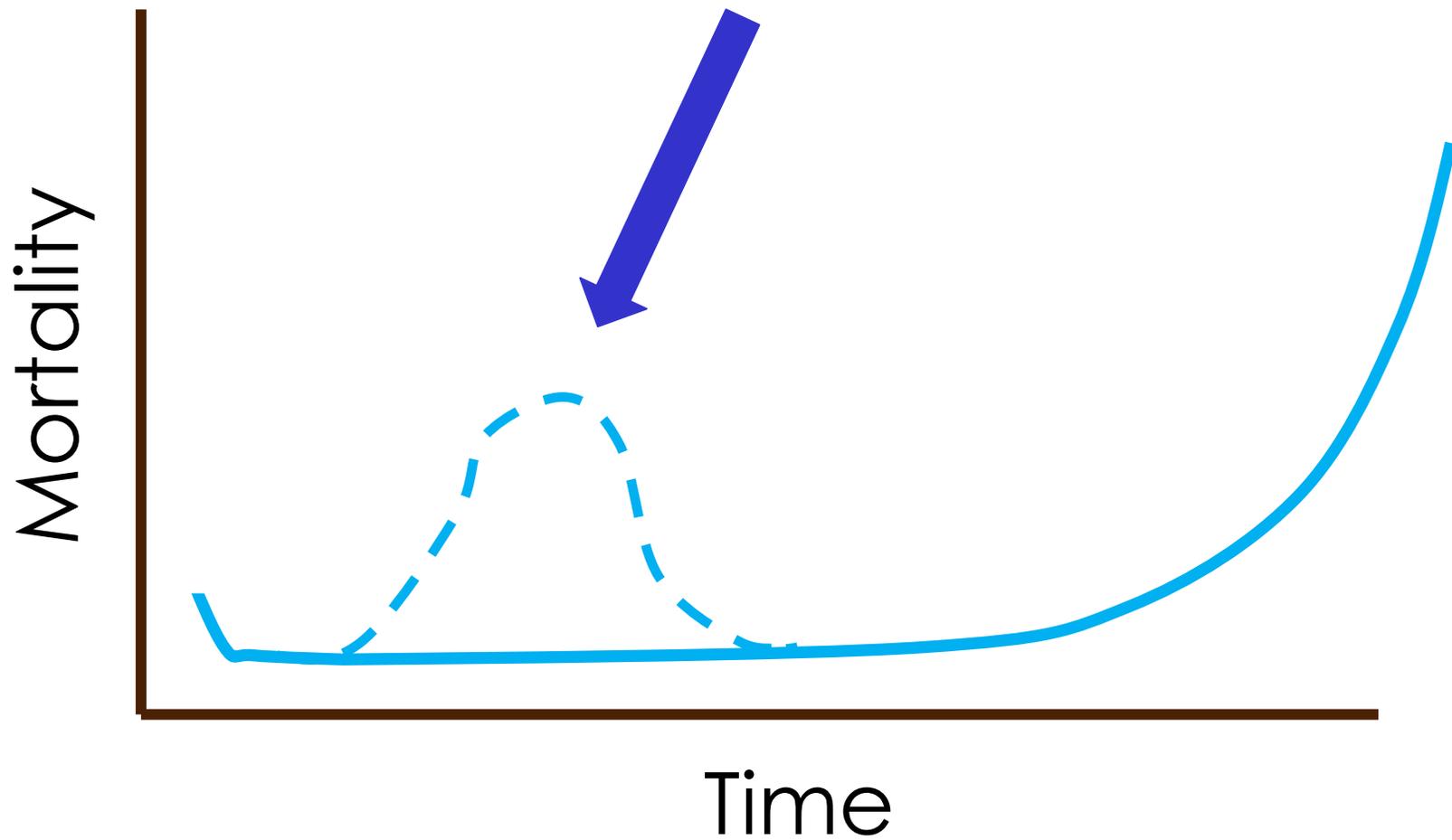
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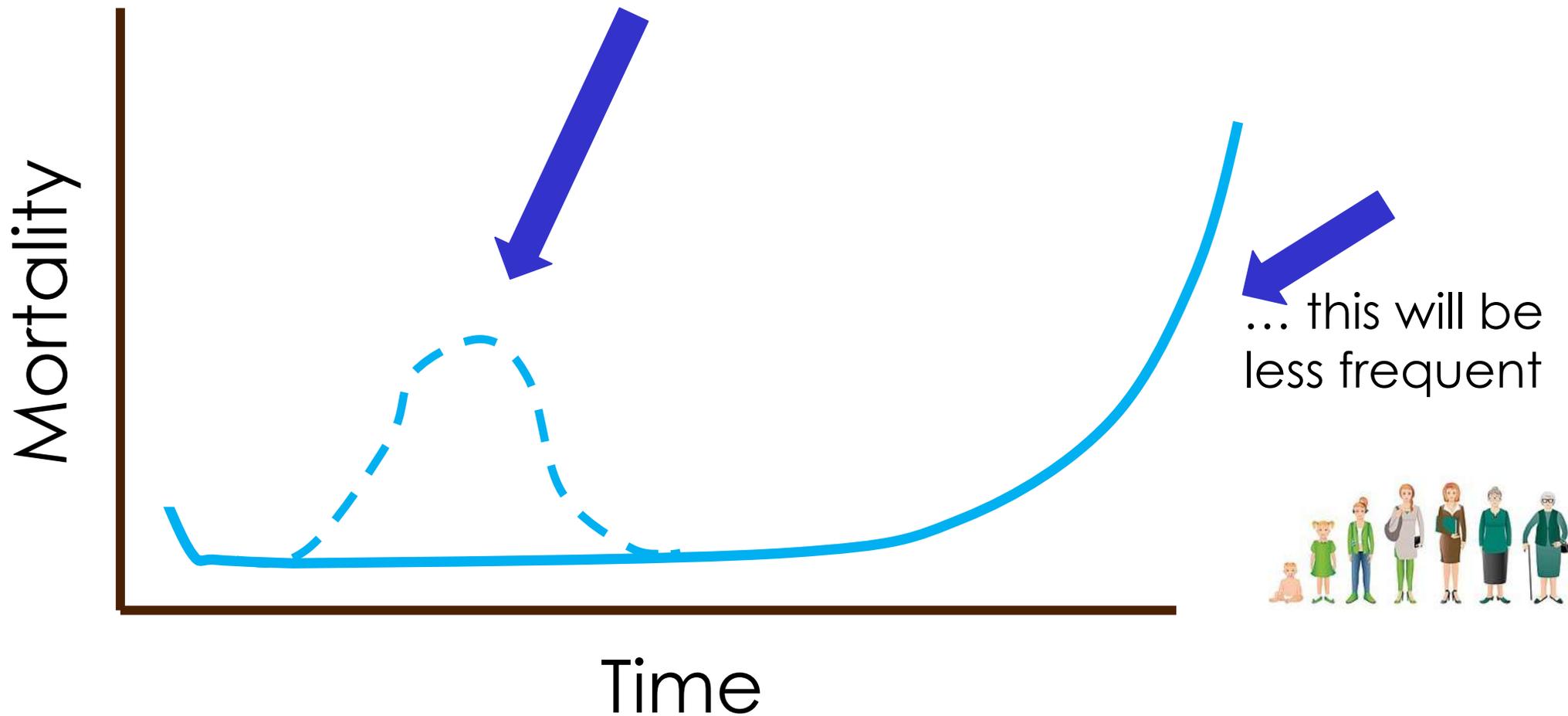
if there is more mortality due to **extrinsic causes**





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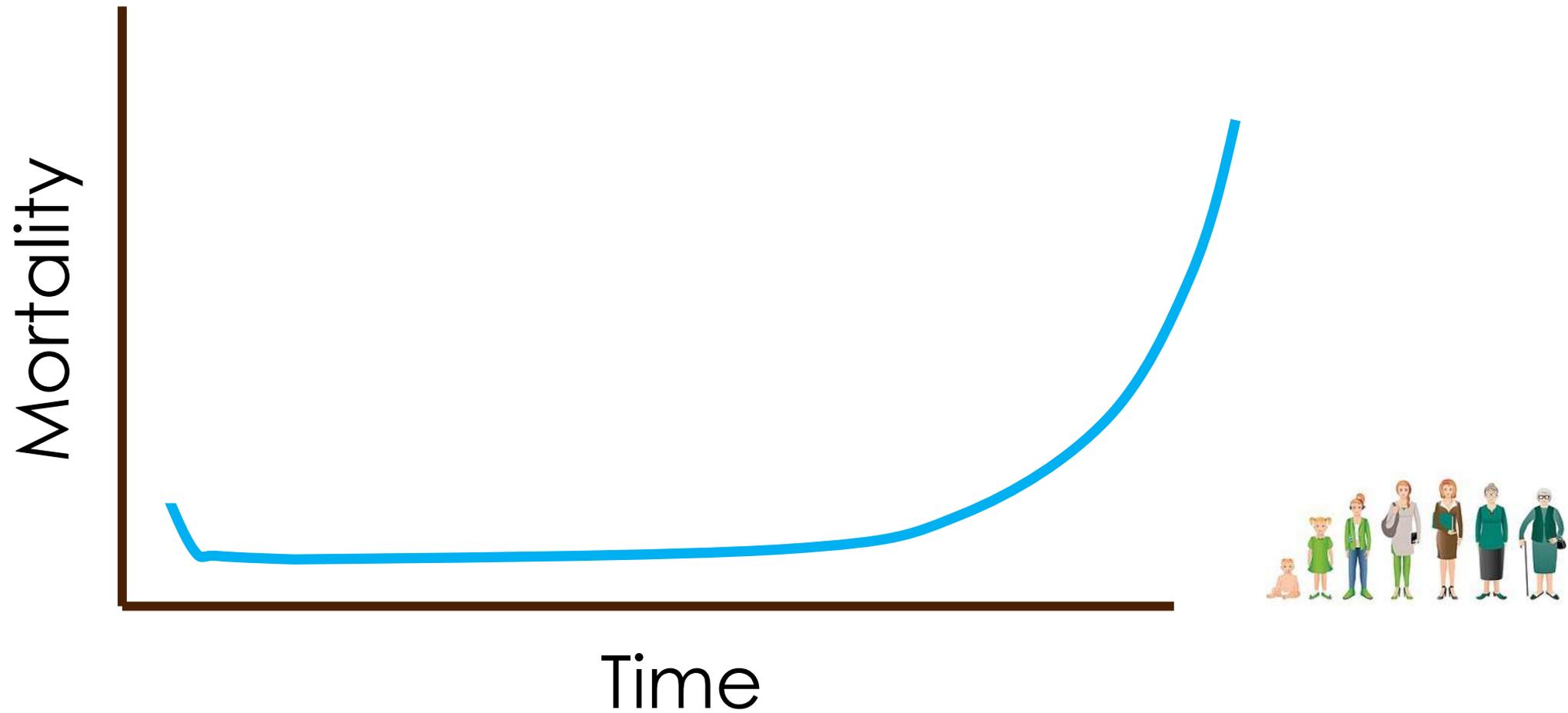
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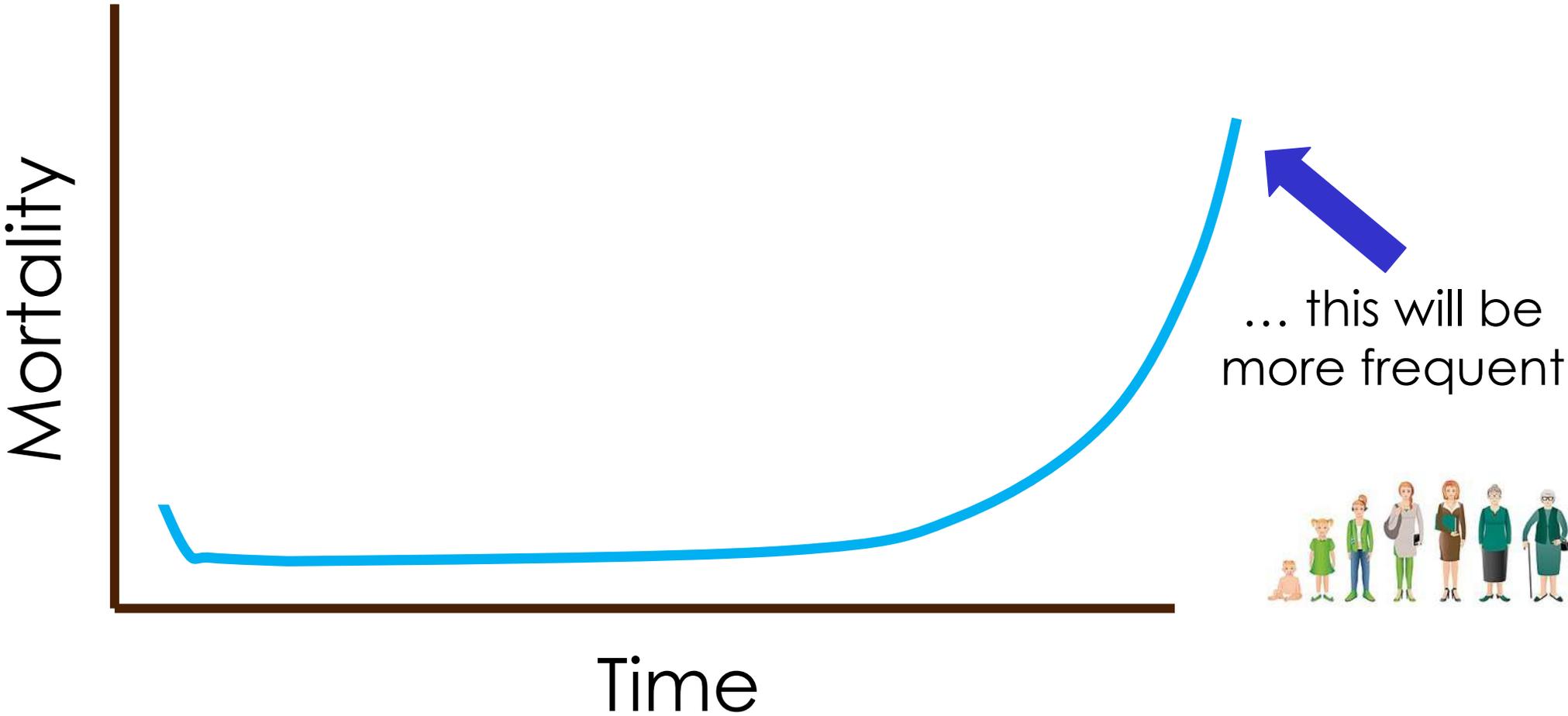
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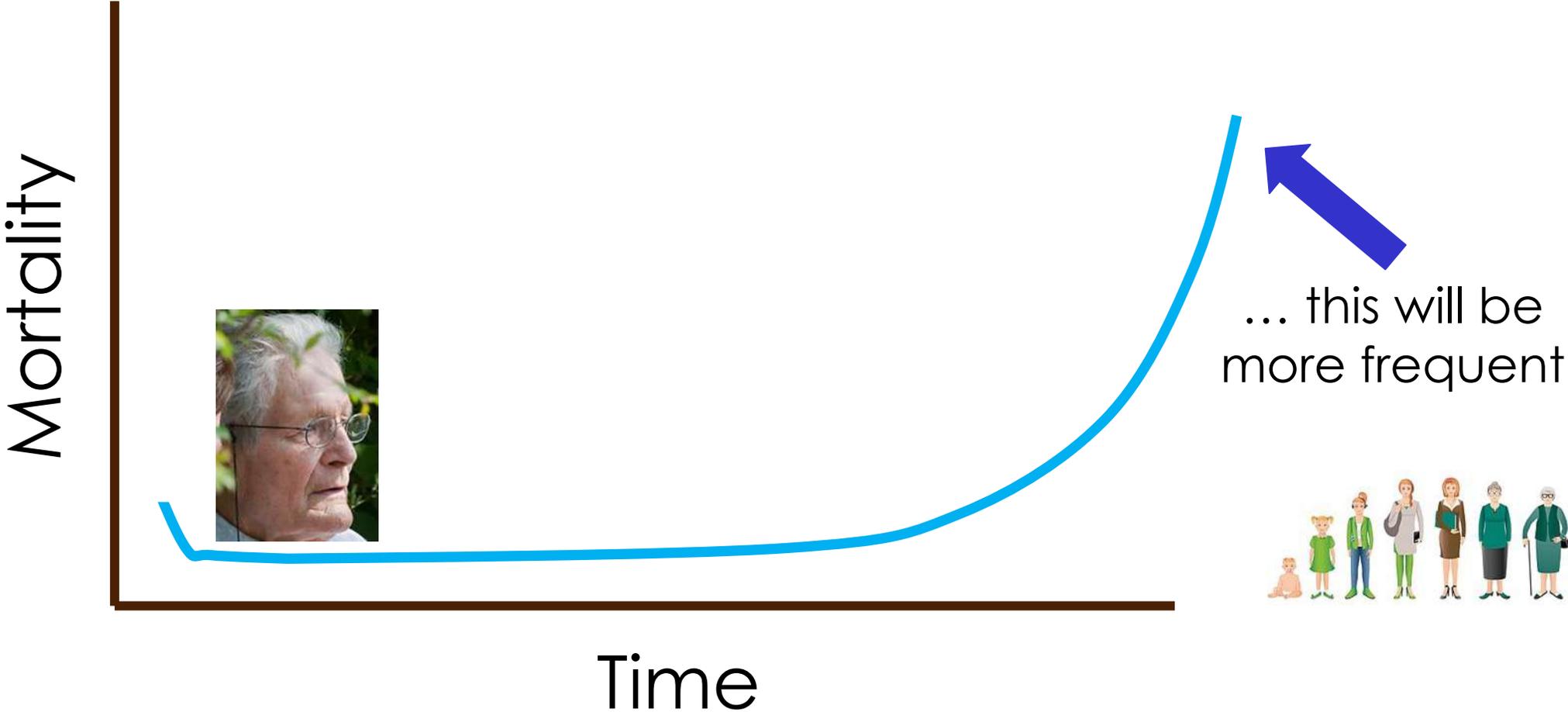
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# Patterns of mortality

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# Cancer prevalence in zoo mammals

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1901-1932

2.6 %



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Ntl. Zoological Park

Washington DC

1975-1977

10.4 %

Ratcliffe (1933)

Lombard & Witte (1959)

Montali (1980)



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Sand Diego Zoo

1964-2015

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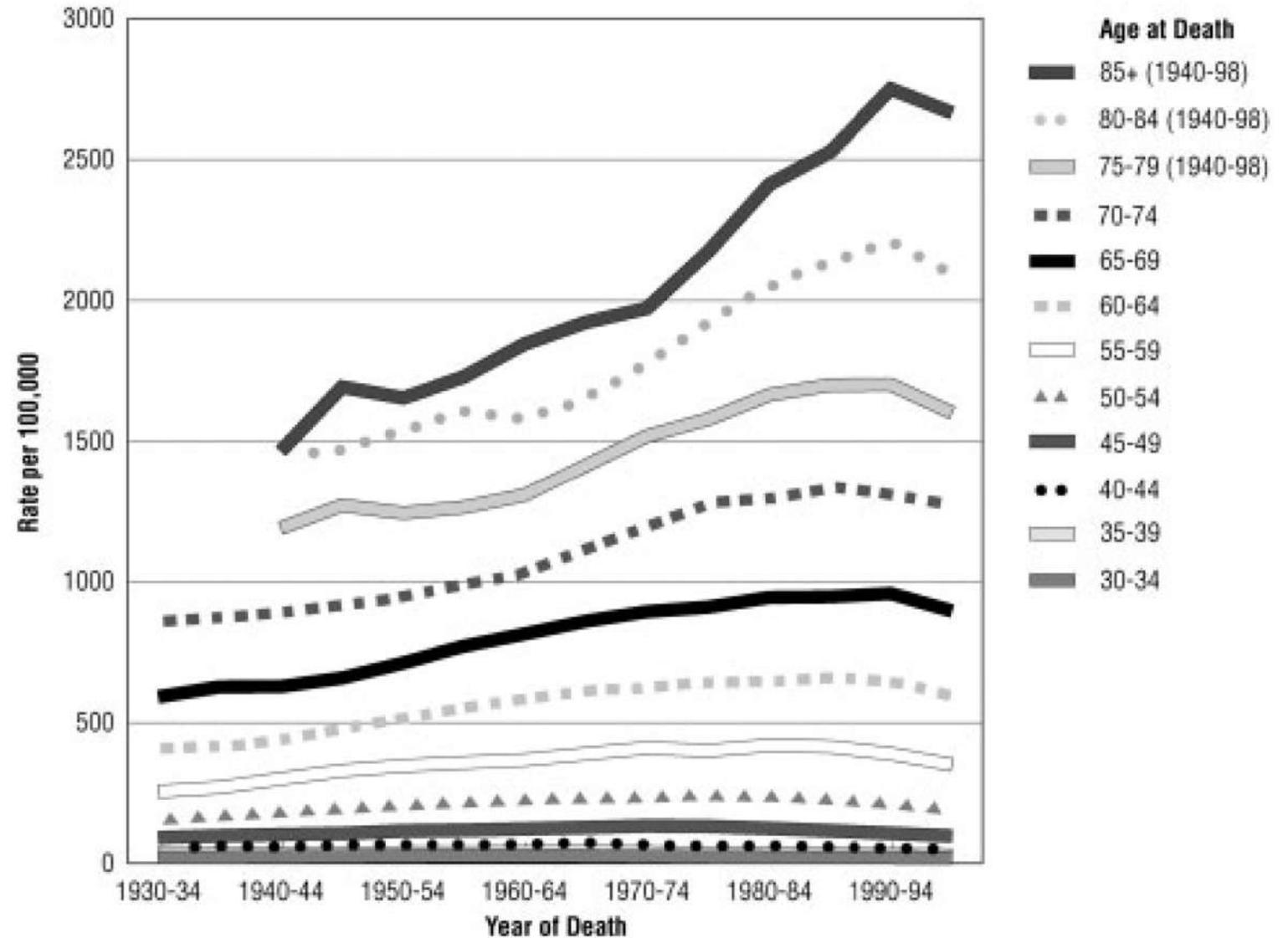
Boddy et al. (2020)



# Long-Term Trends in Cancer Mortality in the United States, 1930–1998

*Cancer* 2003;97(11 Suppl):3133–3275

Phyllis A. Wingo, Ph.D., M.S.<sup>1</sup>  
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Robert T. Greenlee, Ph.D., M.P.H.<sup>1</sup>  
Lynn A. G. Ries, M.S.<sup>2</sup>  
Robert N. Anderson, Ph.D.<sup>3</sup>  
Michael J. Thun, M.D., M.S.<sup>1</sup>





# Peto's "paradox"



The eminent biologist Richard Peto, now at the University of Oxford, pointed out in the 1970s that large-bodied animals ought to be at great statistical risk for cancer – but that does not happen in reality.



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A man has 1000 times as many cells as a mouse (although the ratio of our epithelial *stem*-cell numbers is not known), and we usually live at least 30 times as long as mice. Exposure of two *similar* organisms to risk of carcinoma, one for 30 times as long as the other, would give perhaps  $30^4$  or  $30^6$  (i.e., a million or a billion) times the risk of carcinoma induction per epithelial cell. However, it seems that, in the wild, the probabilities of carcinoma induction in mice and in men are not vastly different. Are our stem cells really, then, a billion or a trillion times more "cancer-proof" than murine stem cells?



# Potential Mechanisms for Cancer Resistance in Elephants and Comparative Cellular Response to DNA Damage in Humans

Lisa M. Abegglen, PhD; Aleah F. Caulin, PhD; Ashley Chan, BS; Kristy Lee, PhD; Rosann Robinson, BS; Michael S. Campbell, PhD; Wendy K. Kiso, PhD; Dennis L. Schmitt, DVM, PhD; Peter J. Waddell, PhD; Srividya Bhaskara, PhD; Shane T. Jensen, PhD; Carlo C. Maley, PhD; Joshua D. Schiffman, MD

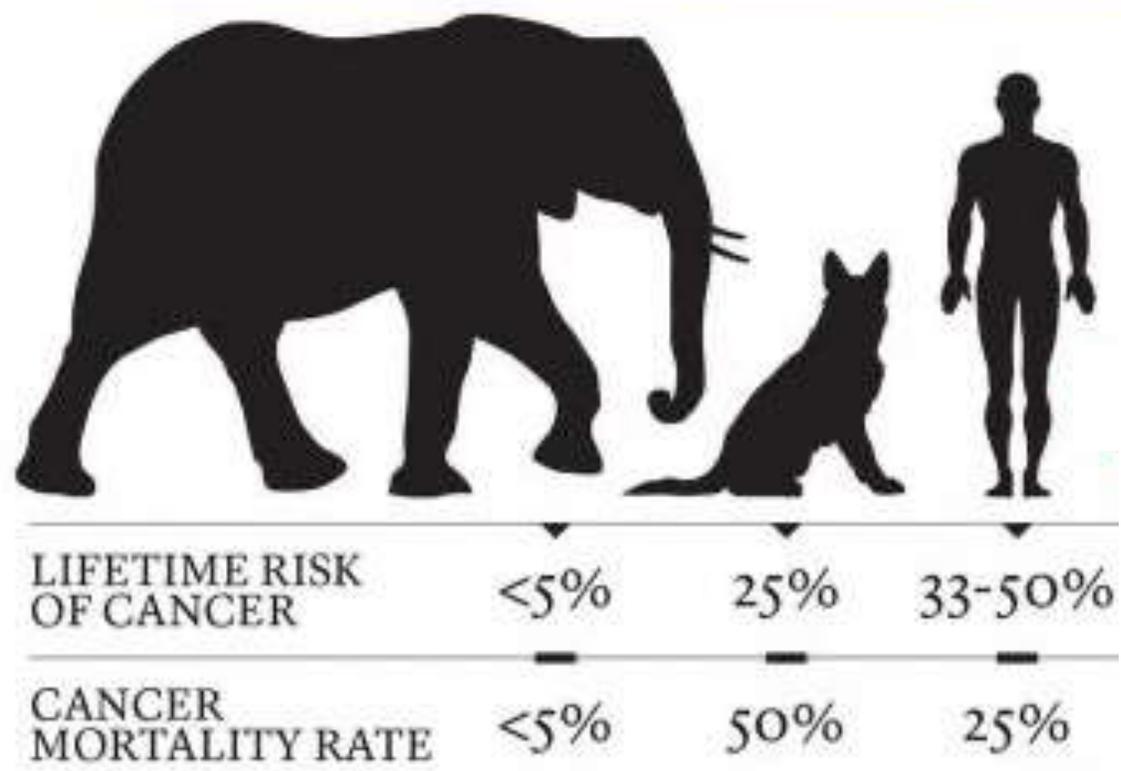
Data from the Elephant Encyclopedia<sup>14</sup> were analyzed on the cause of death in captive African (*Loxodonta africana*) and Asian (*Elephas maximus*) elephants to estimate age incidence and overall lifetime cancer risk.



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Among 644 annotated elephant deaths from the Elephant Encyclopedia database, the lifetime cancer incidence was 3.11% (95% CI, 1.74%-4.47%) (**Table 1**). To obtain a more conservative estimate, an inferred cancer incidence was calculated for cases that lacked adequate details for the cause of death, leading to an estimated elephant cancer mortality rate of 4.81% (95% CI, 3.14%-6.49%).

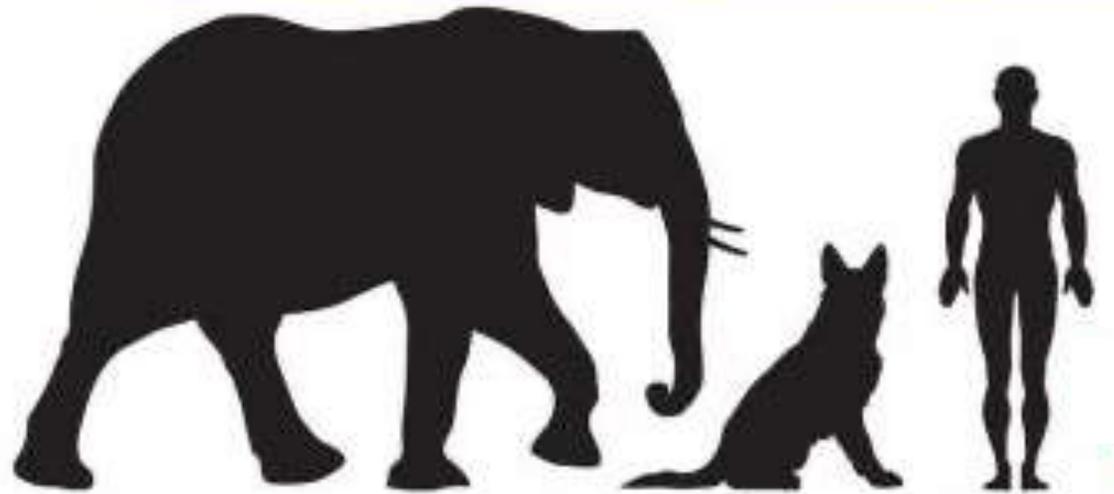


\*Not Available /// SOURCE: Joshua Schiffman



# MAGIC GENE IN A BOTTLE

A tumor suppressor gene, TP53 is the police officer of the cellular world. If a cell with faulty DNA is replicating, it can arrest the process and allow it to move forward only once the DNA is fixed. Or it can shoot to kill, getting rid of the cell with bad DNA.



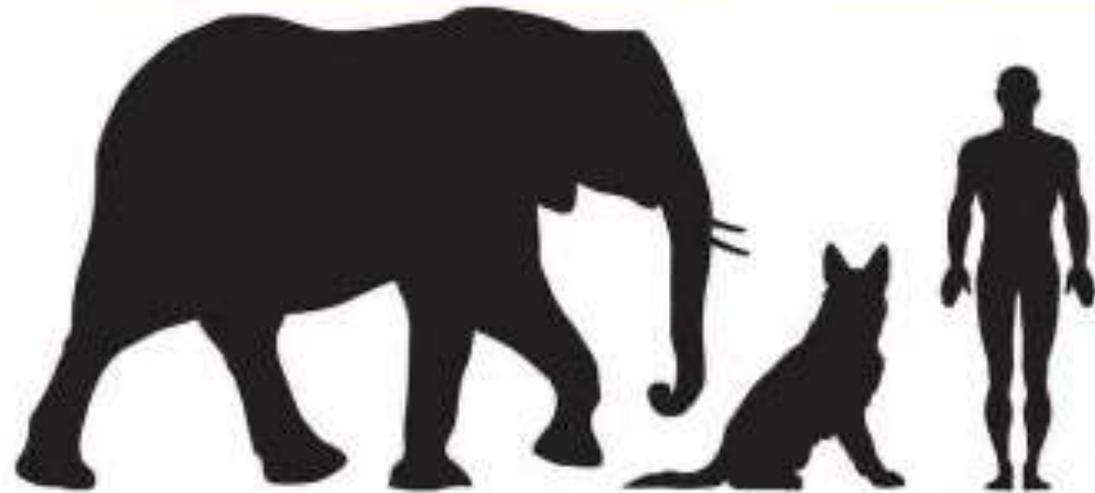
LIFETIME RISK OF CANCER	<5%	25%	33-50%
CANCER MORTALITY RATE	<5%	50%	25%
TP53 GENE	40	2	2

\*Not Available /// SOURCE: Joshua Schiffman



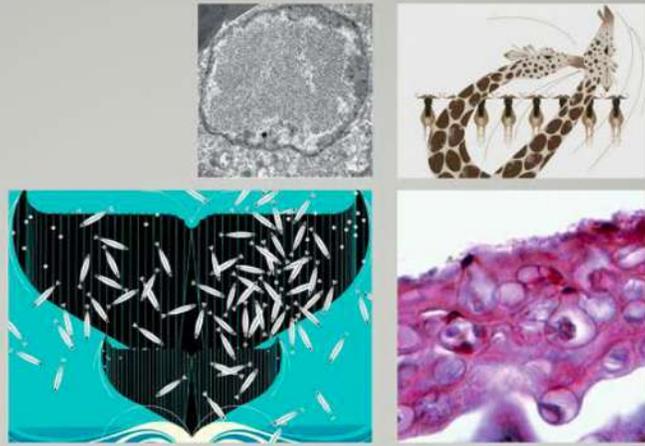
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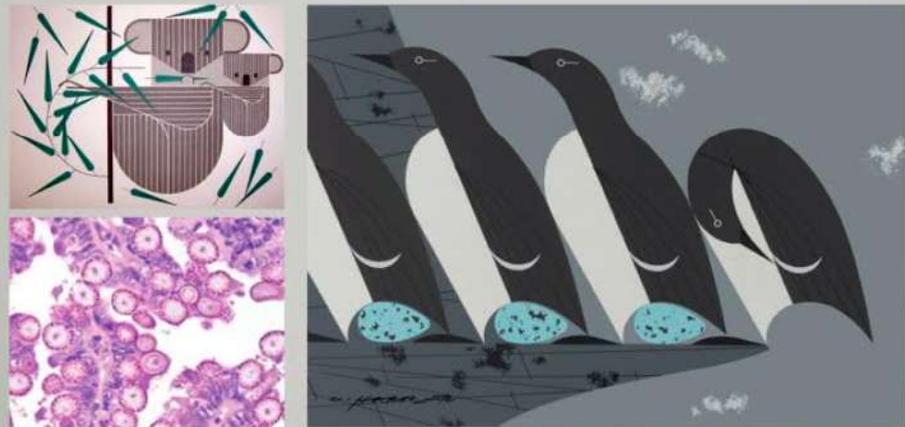


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## Pathology of Wildlife and Zoo Animals



Edited by  
Karen A. Terio | Denise McAloose | Judy St. Leger



# Proboscidae

Jennifer A. Landolfi\* and Scott P. Terrell\*\*

## Neoplastic

Analyses of archival postmortem data from one large zoo-based veterinary pathology program revealed estimated lifetime prevalence for malignancies of 33.3%; with inclusion of benign neoplastic lesions, prevalence was 66.7%. These data negate the assertion that rates of neoplasia in elephants significantly differ from rates in other zoo mammals (Pessier et al., 2016).



# Lifetime cancer prevalence and life history traits in mammals

Evolution, Medicine, and Public Health [2020] pp. 187–195

Amy M. Boddy,<sup>1,\*</sup> Lisa M. Abegglen,<sup>2</sup> Allan P. Pessier,<sup>3</sup> Athena Aktipis,<sup>4,5</sup>  
Joshua D. Schiffman,<sup>2</sup> Carlo C. Maley <sup>5</sup> and Carmel Witte<sup>6</sup>

We report higher cancer prevalence in elephants than previously reported [2]. Previous estimates were derived from the Elephant Encyclopedia Database ( $n = 644$  elephants) [2]. While this database is an important resource for the elephant community, we are not confident that all of the data were medically curated.



# Reproductive tract neoplasia in adult female Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*)

Veterinary Pathology  
2021, Vol. 58(6) 1131-1141  
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DOI: 10.1177/03009858211031843  
[journals.sagepub.com/home/vet](https://journals.sagepub.com/home/vet)



Jennifer A. Landolfi<sup>1</sup> , Patricia M. Gaffney<sup>2</sup>, Rita McManamon<sup>3</sup>,  
Nicole L. Gottdenker<sup>3</sup>, Angela E. Ellis<sup>3</sup>, Raquel R. Rech<sup>3</sup>, Sushan Han<sup>4</sup> ,  
Linda J. Lowenstine<sup>5</sup>, Dalen Agnew<sup>6</sup>, Michael M. Garner<sup>7</sup>,  
Denise McAloose<sup>8</sup> , Charlotte Hollinger<sup>8</sup>, Judy St. Leger<sup>9</sup>,  
Scott P. Terrell<sup>10</sup>, Mary Duncan<sup>11</sup>, and Allan P. Pessier<sup>2,12</sup>

This study is an archival review of reproductive tract neoplasia in 80 adult female Asian elephant mortalities in managed care facilities in the United States from 1988 to 2019. Neoplasms occurred in 64/80 (80%) of cases.



# Cancer prevalence in zoo elephants



Preliminary Communication

## Potential Mechanisms for Cancer Resistance in Elephants and Comparative Cellular Response to DNA Damage in Humans

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Abegglen et al.  
(2015)  
4.8 %

INCIDENCE AND NATURE OF TUMORS IN CAPTIVE WILD MAMMALS AND BIRDS<sup>1</sup>

HERBERT L. RATCLIFFE

Ratcliffe  
(1933)  
25 %



Landolfi & Terrell  
(2018)  
67 %

Lifetime cancer prevalence and life history traits in mammals

Amy M. Boddy,<sup>1\*</sup> Lisa M. Abegglen,<sup>1</sup> Allan P. Pessier,<sup>1</sup> Athina Aktipis,<sup>1,2</sup> Joshua D. Schiffman,<sup>1</sup> Carlo C. Maley,<sup>1</sup> and Carmel Wittel<sup>1</sup>

Boddy et al.  
(2020)  
47 %

Nondomestic, Exotic, Wild and Zoo Animals—Original Article

Reproductive tract neoplasia in adult female Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*)

Jennifer A. Landolfi<sup>1</sup>, Patricia M. Gaffney<sup>2</sup>, Rita McManamon<sup>3</sup>, Nicole L. Gottdenker<sup>2</sup>, Angela E. Ellis<sup>2</sup>, Raquel R. Rech<sup>3</sup>, Sushan Han<sup>4</sup>, Linda J. Lowenstine<sup>5</sup>, Dalen Agnew<sup>6</sup>, Michael M. Garner<sup>7</sup>, Denise McAloose<sup>8</sup>, Charlotte Hollinger<sup>8</sup>, Judy St. Leger<sup>9</sup>, Scott P. Terrell<sup>10</sup>, Mary Duncan<sup>11</sup>, and Allan P. Pessier<sup>2,12</sup>

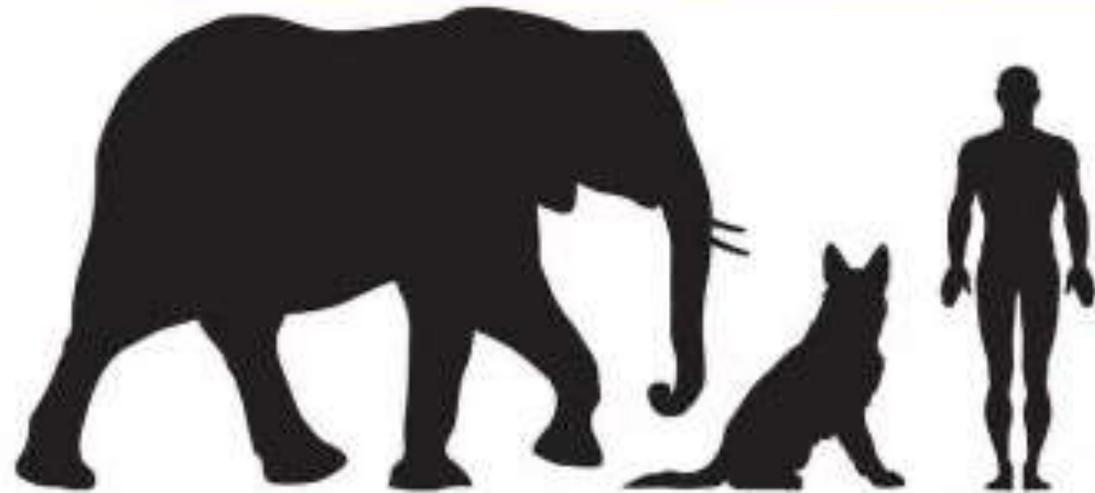
Landolfi et al.  
(2021)  
80 %

Veterinary Pathology  
2021, Vol. 58(6) 1133-1141  
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DOI: 10.1177/08980101211031843  
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# Solutions to Peto's paradox revealed by mathematical modelling and cross-species cancer gene analysis

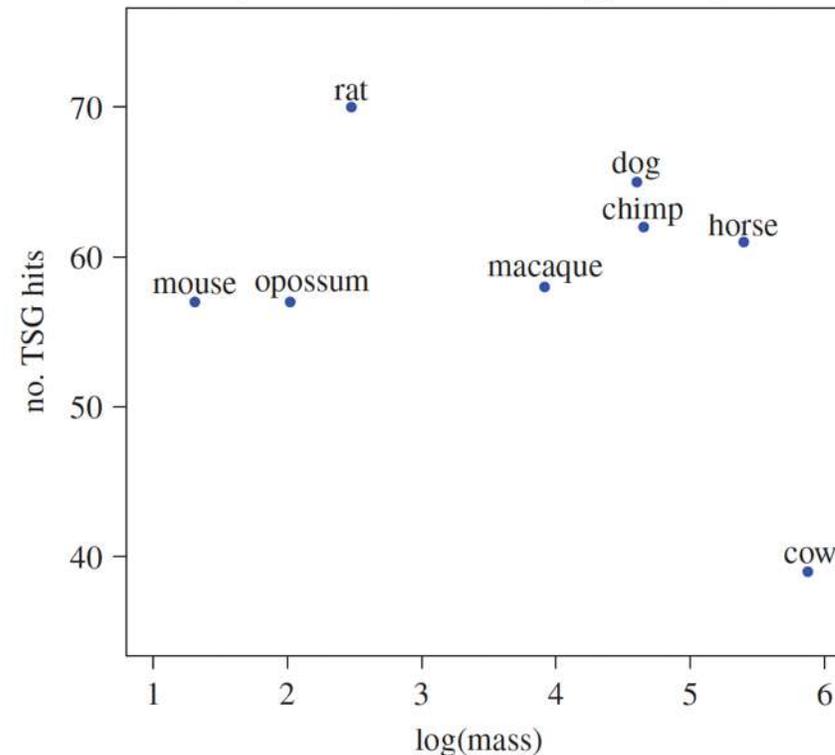
2015

*Trans. R. Soc. B* **370**: 20140222.

*Phil.*

Aleah F. Caulin<sup>1</sup>, Trevor A. Graham<sup>3</sup>, Li-San Wang<sup>2</sup> and Carlo C. Maley<sup>4,5</sup>

(a) body mass versus no. tumor suppressor genes





Peto's "paradox"



Peto's "paradox"

*Is it a paradox ?*



# Peto's "paradox"

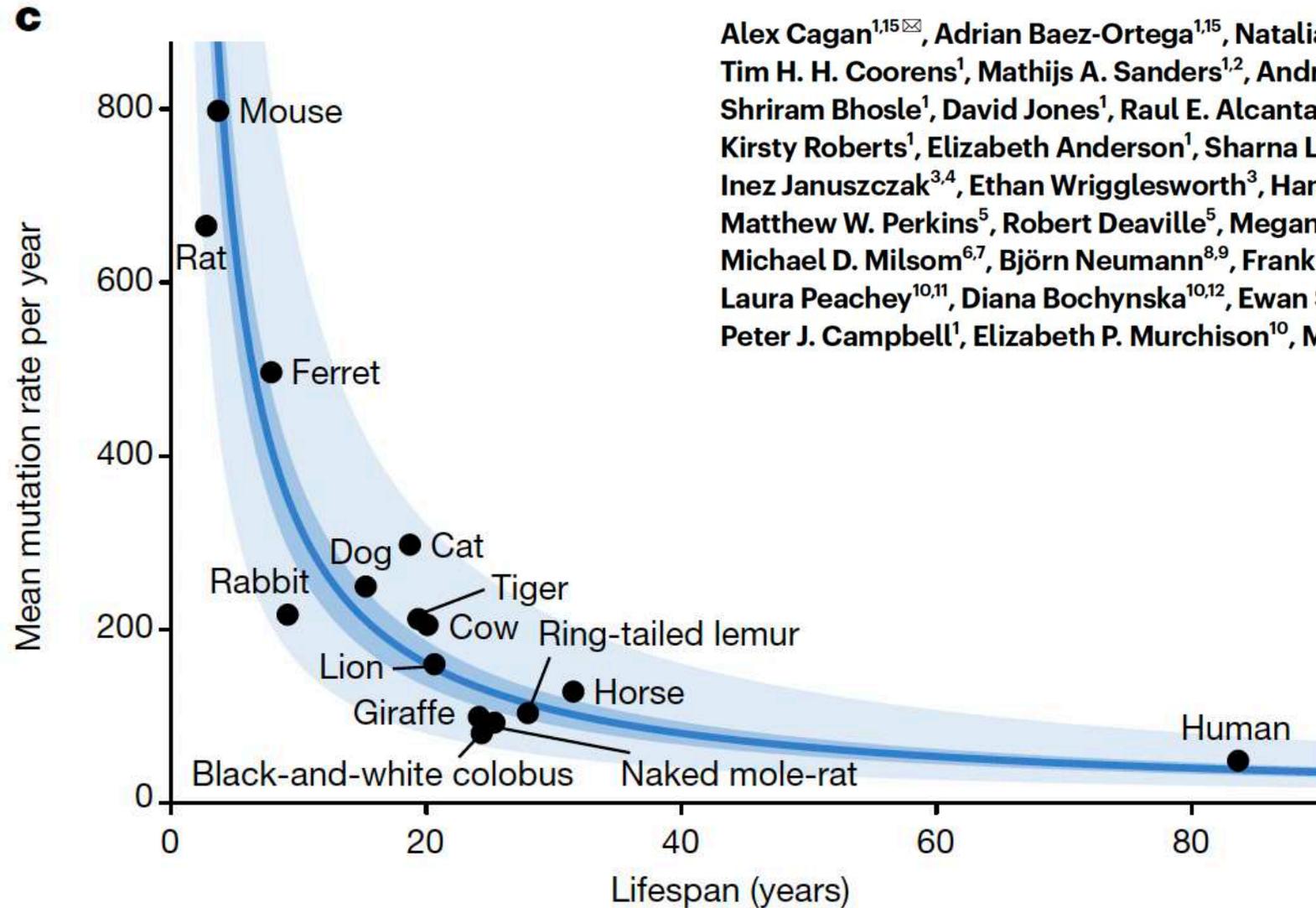
*Is it a paradox ?*

*The cells of an elephant do not have the same metabolism as that of a mouse – why should they have the same mutation rate?*



# Somatic mutation rates scale with lifespan across mammals

Nature | Vol 604 | 21 April 2022 | 517

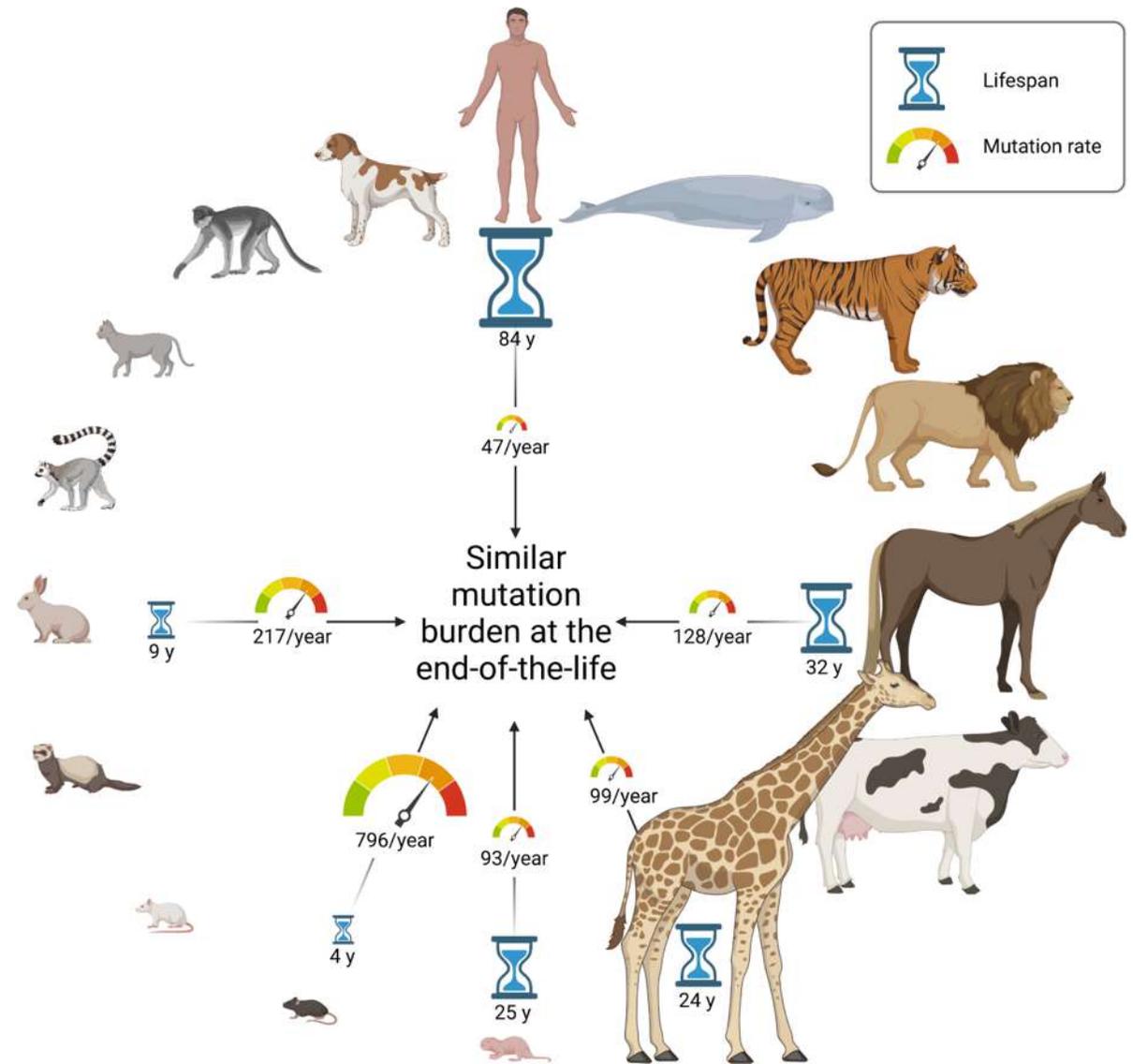


Alex Cagan<sup>1,15</sup>✉, Adrian Baez-Ortega<sup>1,15</sup>, Natalia Brzozowska<sup>1</sup>, Federico Abascal<sup>1</sup>, Tim H. H. Coorens<sup>1</sup>, Mathijs A. Sanders<sup>1,2</sup>, Andrew R. J. Lawson<sup>1</sup>, Luke M. R. Harvey<sup>1</sup>, Shriram Bhosle<sup>1</sup>, David Jones<sup>1</sup>, Raul E. Alcantara<sup>1</sup>, Timothy M. Butler<sup>1</sup>, Yvette Hooks<sup>1</sup>, Kirsty Roberts<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth Anderson<sup>1</sup>, Sharna Lunn<sup>1</sup>, Edmund Flach<sup>3</sup>, Simon Spiro<sup>3</sup>, Inez Januszczak<sup>3,4</sup>, Ethan Wrigglesworth<sup>3</sup>, Hannah Jenkins<sup>3</sup>, Tilly Dallas<sup>3</sup>, Nic Masters<sup>3</sup>, Matthew W. Perkins<sup>5</sup>, Robert Deaville<sup>5</sup>, Megan Druce<sup>6,7</sup>, Ruzhica Bogeska<sup>6,7</sup>, Michael D. Milson<sup>6,7</sup>, Björn Neumann<sup>8,9</sup>, Frank Gorman<sup>10</sup>, Fernando Constantino-Casas<sup>10</sup>, Laura Peachey<sup>10,11</sup>, Diana Bochynska<sup>10,12</sup>, Ewan St. John Smith<sup>13</sup>, Moritz Gerstung<sup>14</sup>, Peter J. Campbell<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth P. Murchison<sup>10</sup>, Michael R. Stratton<sup>1</sup> & Iñigo Martincorena<sup>1</sup>✉



# Somatic mutation rates scale with lifespan across mammals

Nature | Vol 604 | 21 April 2022 | 517





*recent evaluations with zoo data*



# Lifetime cancer prevalence and life history traits in mammals

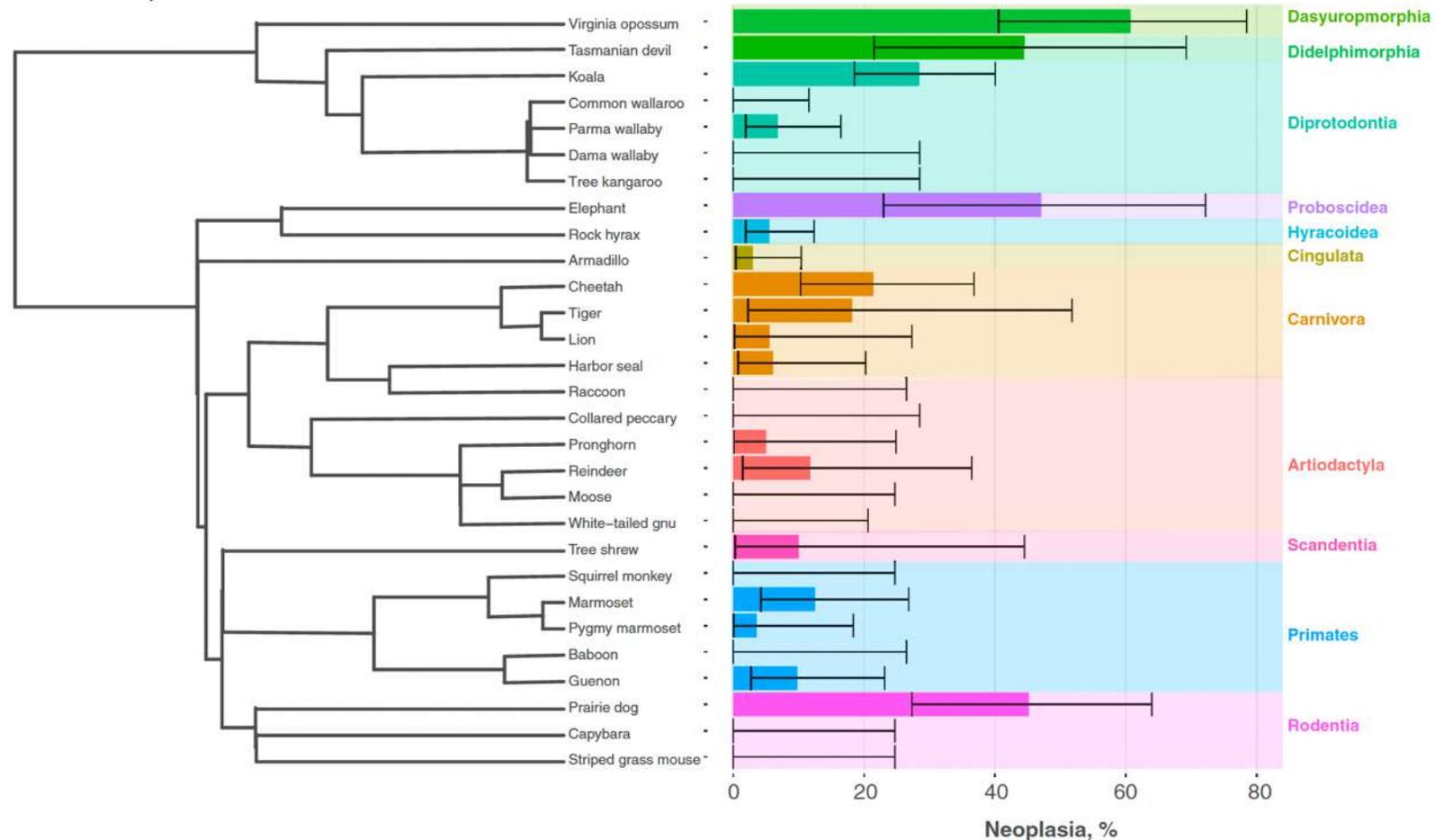
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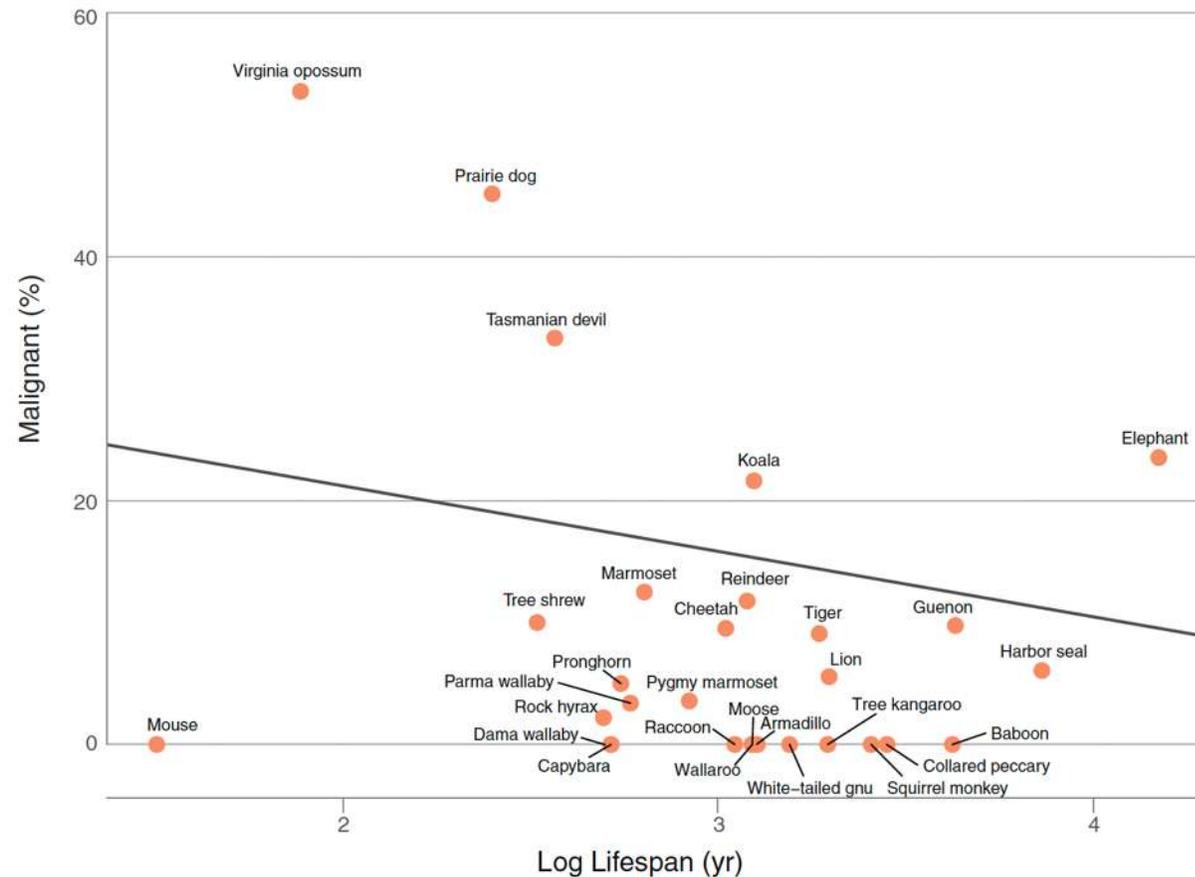
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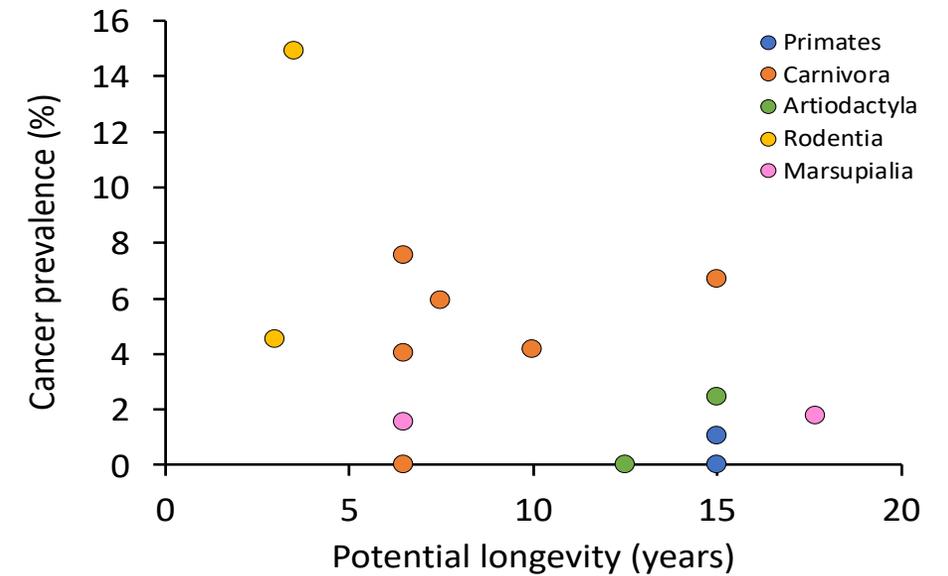
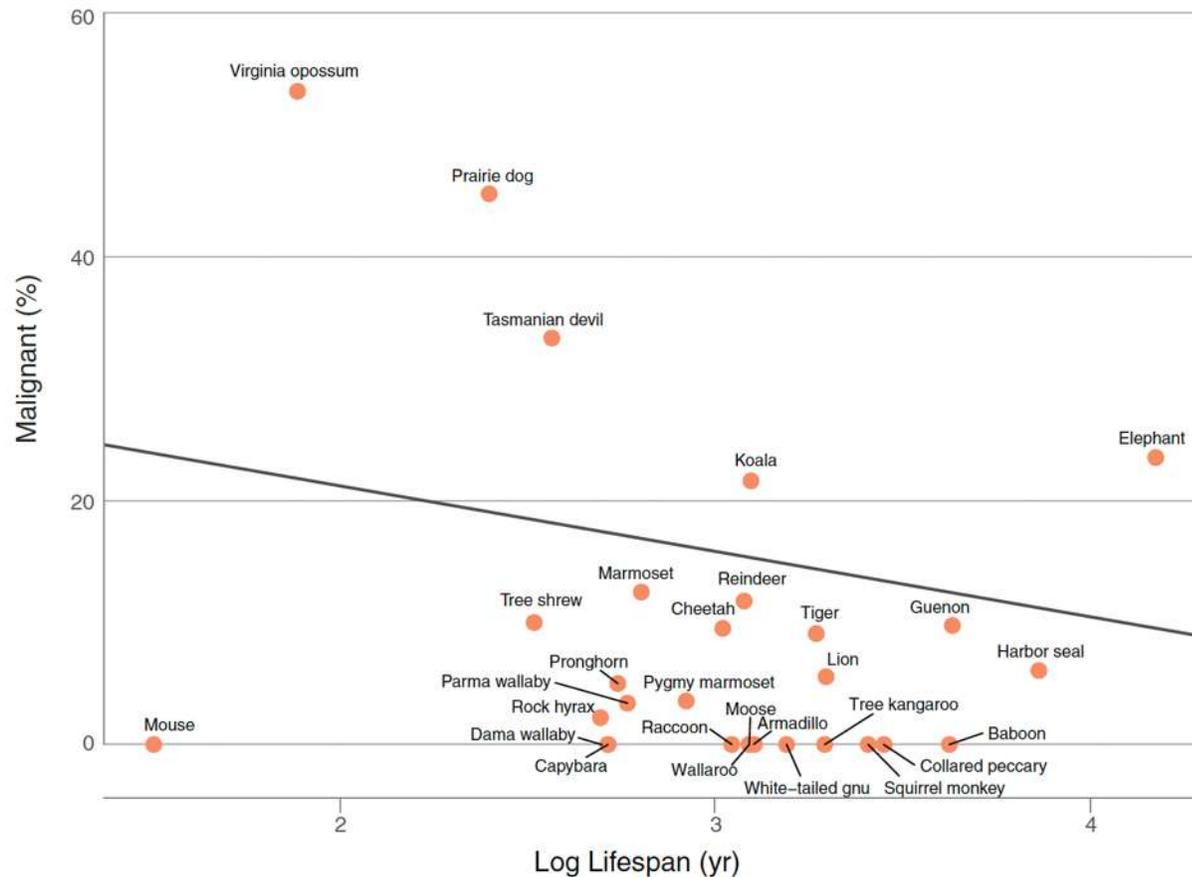




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**Cancer is not a disease of animals that CAN live many years.**

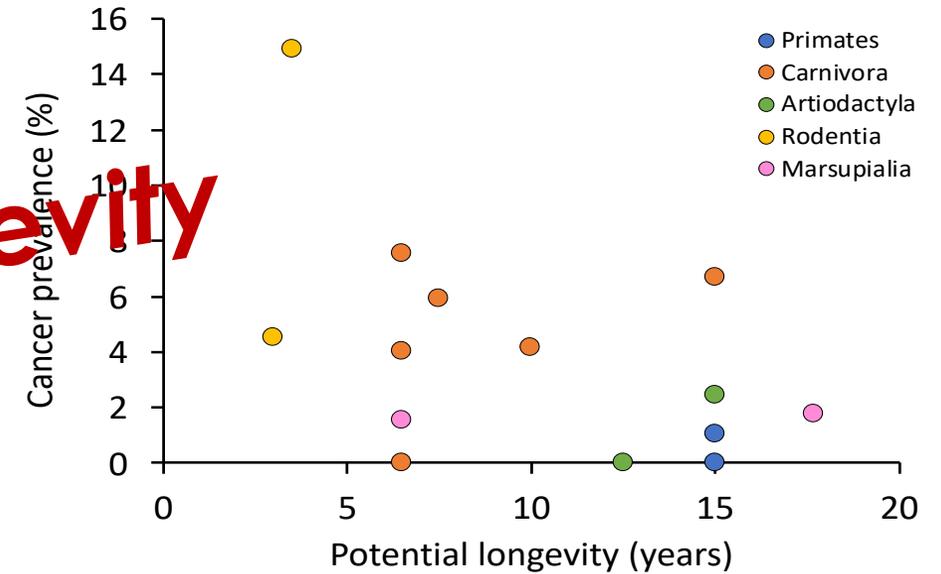
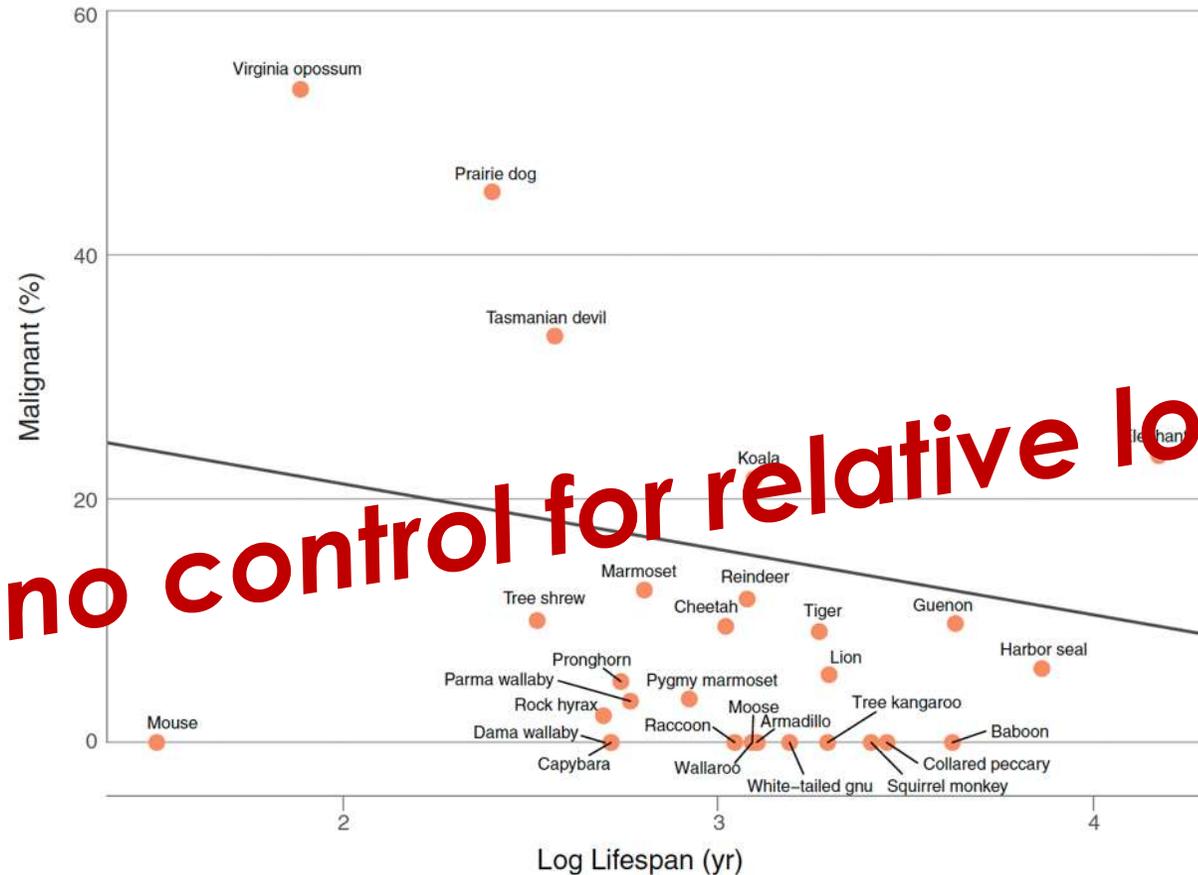




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CANCER (RA MURPHY, SECTION EDITOR)



# Diet, Microbes, and Cancer Across the Tree of Life: a Systematic Review

Stefania E. Kapsetaki<sup>1,2</sup>  · Gissel Marquez Alcaraz<sup>1,2</sup> · Carlo C. Maley<sup>1,2</sup> · Corrie M. Whisner<sup>3,4</sup> · Athena Aktipis<sup>1,5</sup>



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## Carnivorous Diets May Be Associated with Cancer-Inducing Microbes

Comparative oncology studies show that within mammals, the order Carnivora has higher benign or malignant tumour prevalence than other primarily herbivorous mammalian orders [3, 131]. Also, our group has been investigating the cancer prevalence of species at different trophic levels, including carnivores, herbivores, insectivores, and others. Our preliminary results across vertebrate species show that lower trophic levels (such as herbivores) have lower cancer prevalence than higher trophic levels (such as secondary carnivores) (Kapsetaki et al. in prep).



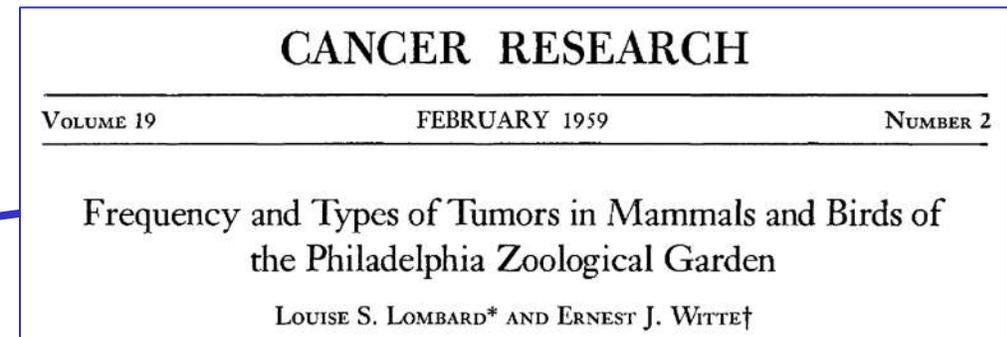


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no control for relative longevity



Global information  
serving conservation.



EAZA

# Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria



Approved by EAZA Annual  
General Meeting  
2 October 2020



EAZA

## Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria



Approved by EAZA Annual  
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2 October 2020

### 5.2 Stock records

1. Animal records are to be kept on a computer system using the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS), and to be included on the global zoo animal database of Species360, by means of which information can be quickly retrieved.
2. Alternatively, records may be kept by means of an established and globally recognised and accepted record system, that is easily able to share data with ZIMS and that is and maintained in relation to all individually recognised animals and groups of animals. If a Member wishes to use an alternative record system, it shall request prior approval of the Council. The Council shall decide in its absolute discretion.
3. Where animals are disposed of or die, the records to be kept in the appropriate recording system as described in Article 95.
4. The records should provide the following information:
  - a. the correct identification and scientific name;
  - b. the origin (i.e. whether wild or captive born, including identification of parents, where known, and previous location/s, if any);
  - c. the dates of entry into, and disposal from, the collection and to whom;
  - d. the date, or estimated date, of birth;
  - e. the sex of the animals (where known);
  - f. any distinctive markings, including tattoo or freeze brands etc.;
  - g. clinical data, including details of and dates when drugs, injections, and any other forms of treatment were given, and details of the health of the animal;
  - h. the date of death and the result of any post-mortem examination;
  - i. the reason, where an escape has taken place, or damage or injury has been caused to, or by, an animal to persons or property, for such escape, damage or injury and a summary of remedial measures taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents.



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# EAZA Membership and Accreditation Manual



You learn a lot about the natural world if you keep your animals in an intelligent way.

- David Attenborough, 2016

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria  
Amsterdam  
Version 4

Approved by the EAZA Annual General Meeting on 22 April 2021



## EAZA Membership and Accreditation Manual



EAZA Members are required to meet obligations regarding, e.g.:

- Participation in EAZA Ex situ Programmes (EEPs) for population management
- Animal records (Species360 membership)



# Cancer risk across mammals

**Orsolya Vincze<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>✉, Fernando Colchero<sup>5,6,7</sup>, Jean-Francois Lemaître<sup>8</sup>, Dalia A. Conde<sup>6,7,9</sup>, Samuel Pavard<sup>10</sup>, Margaux Bieuville<sup>10</sup>, Araxi O. Urrutia<sup>11,12</sup>, Beata Ujvari<sup>13</sup>, Amy M. Boddy<sup>14</sup>, Carlo C. Maley<sup>15</sup>, Frédéric Thomas<sup>1</sup> & Mathieu Giraudeau<sup>1,2</sup>**

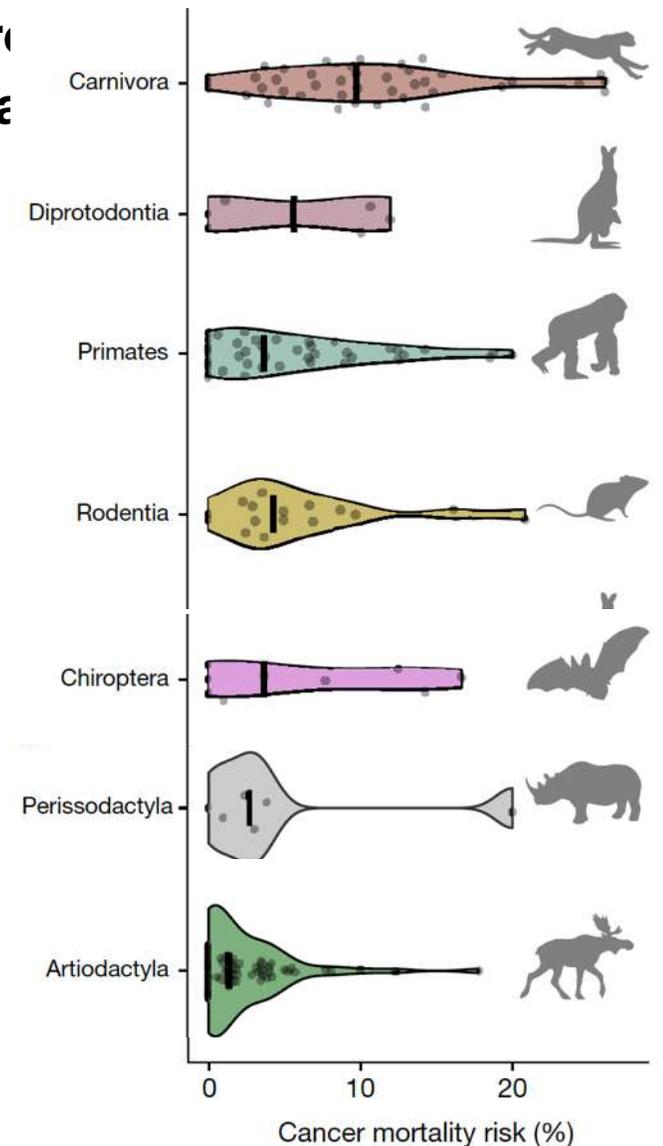
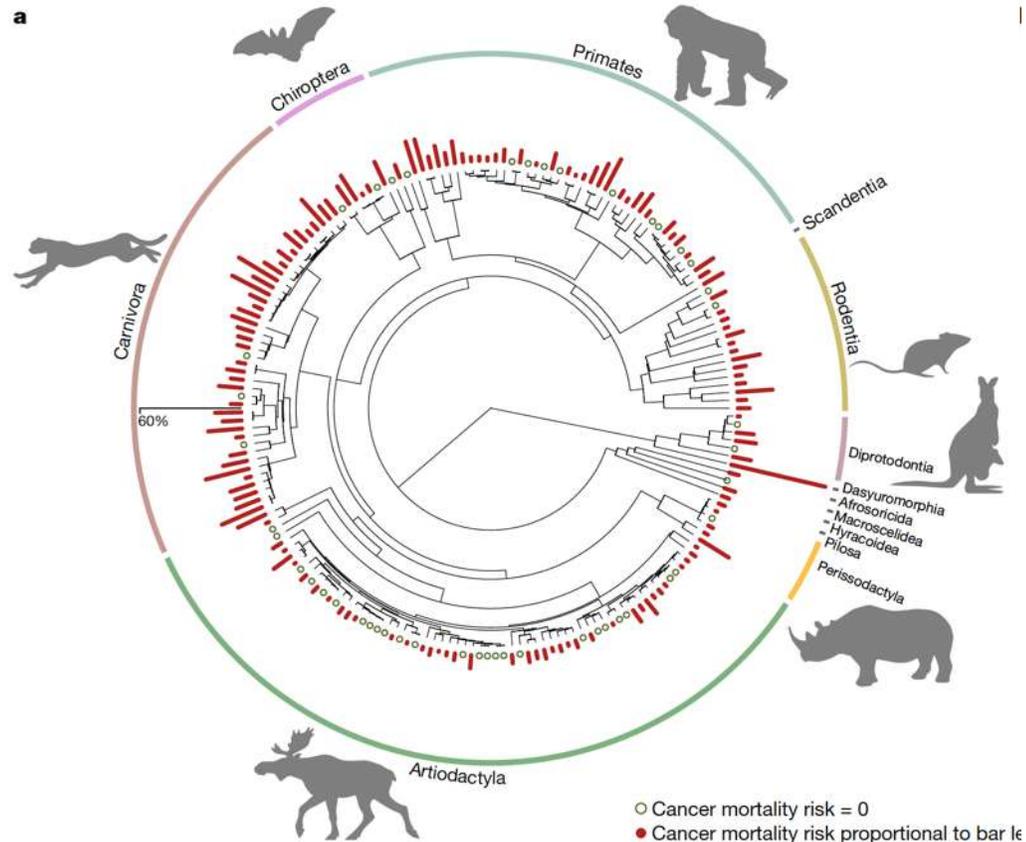
Nature | Vol 601 | 13 January 2022 | **263**



# Cancer risk across mammals

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Nature | Vol 601 | 13 January 2022 | 263

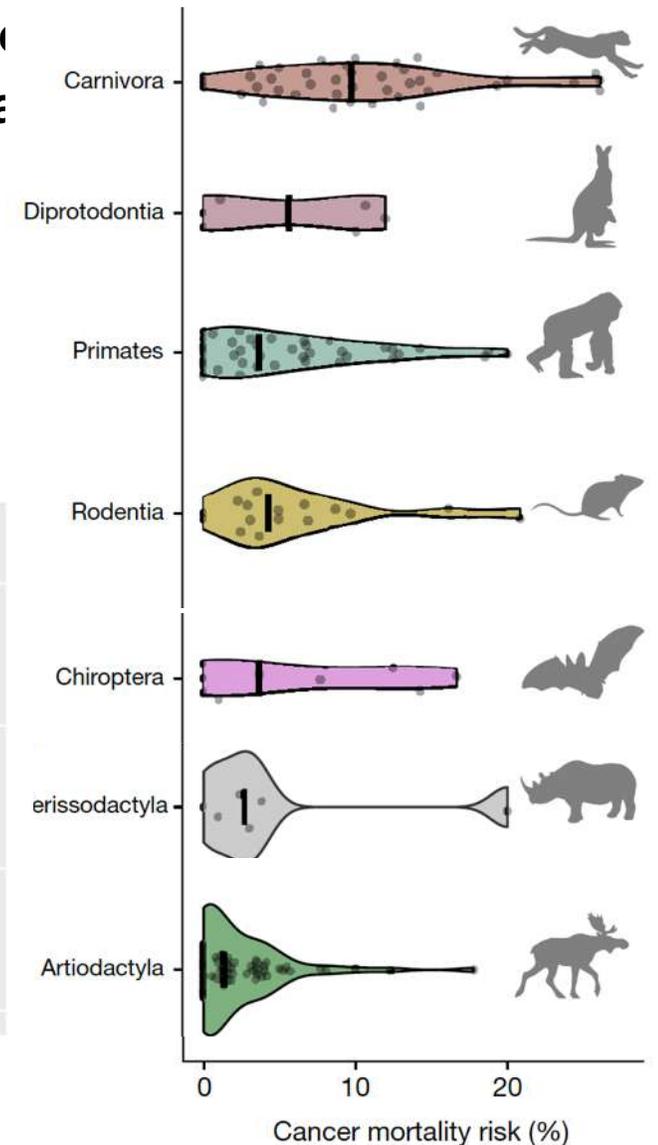
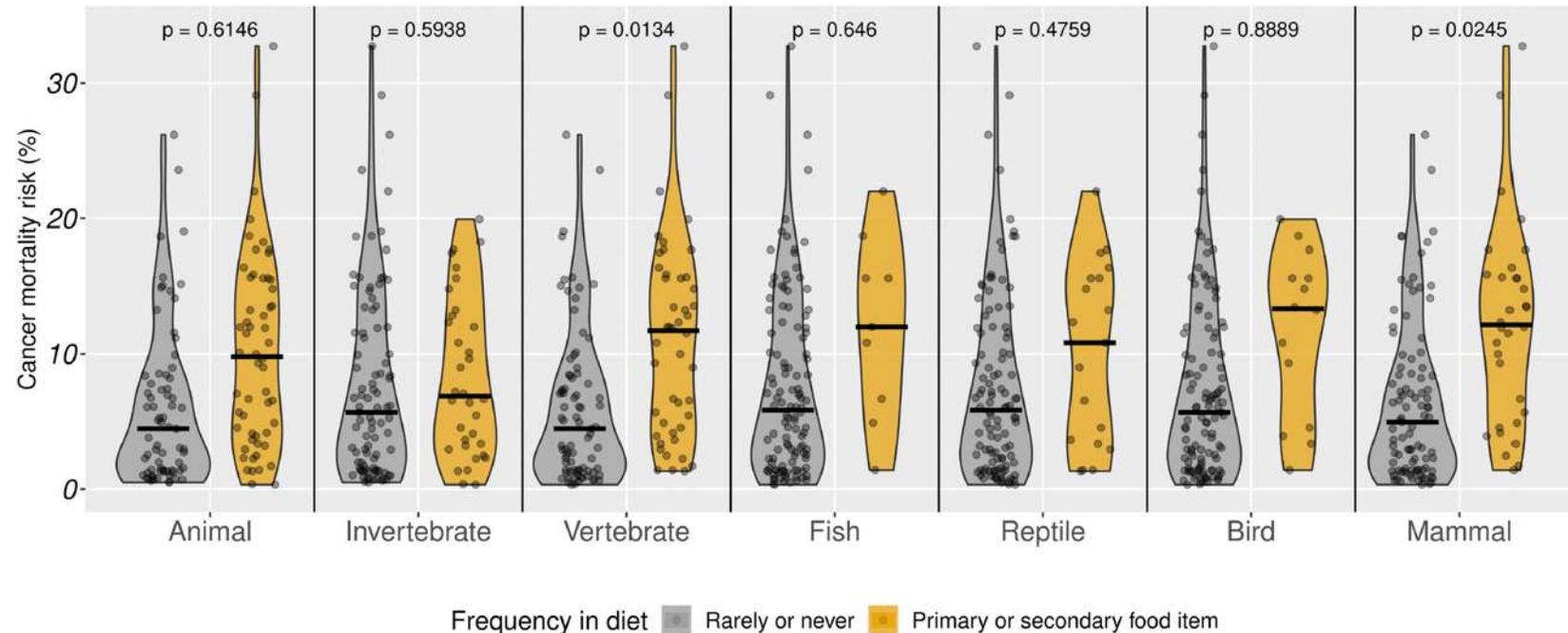




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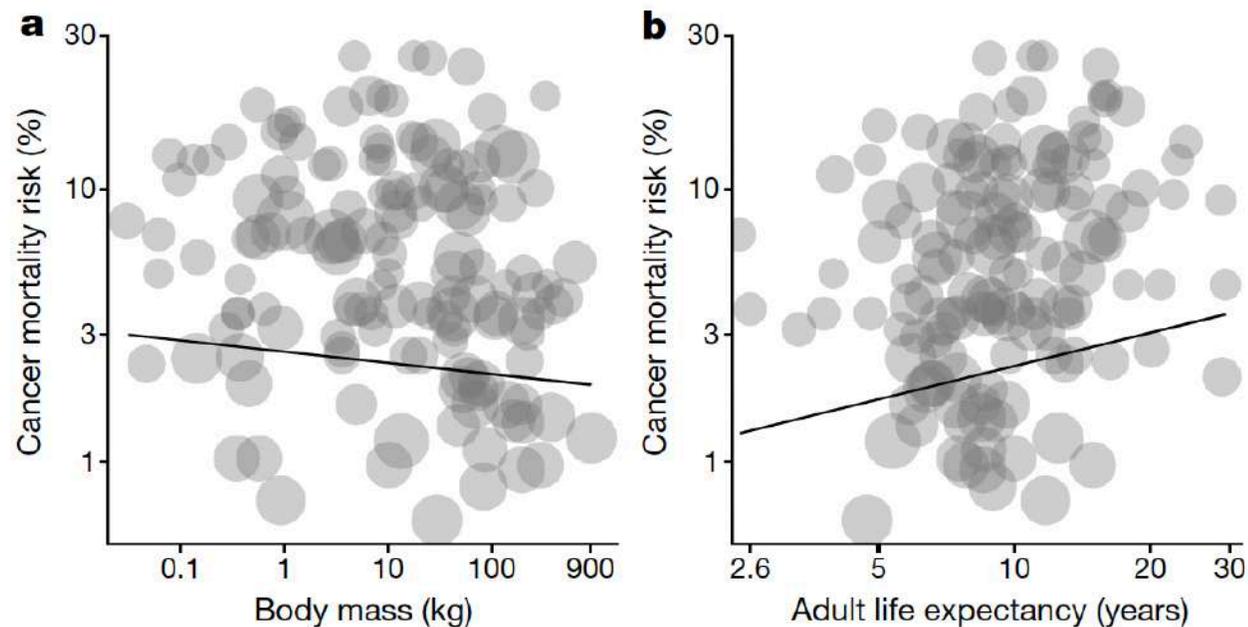




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**Fig. 3 | Association between cancer mortality risk and body mass or adult life expectancy across mammals. a, b**, Non-zero CMR plotted against body mass (a) or adult life expectancies (b). Slopes were obtained from the PGLS model presented in Extended Data Table 3a. Points are proportional to the log number of individuals with available postmortem pathological records.

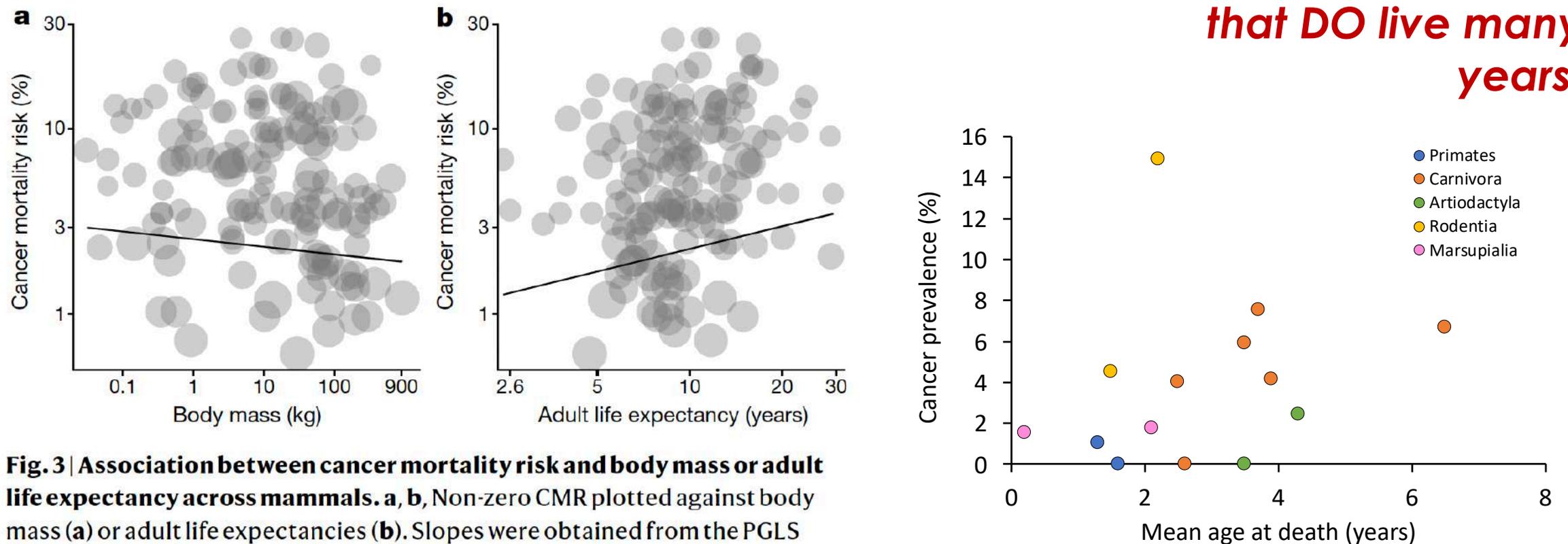


# Cancer risk across mammals

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*Cancer is not a disease of animals that DO live many years.*



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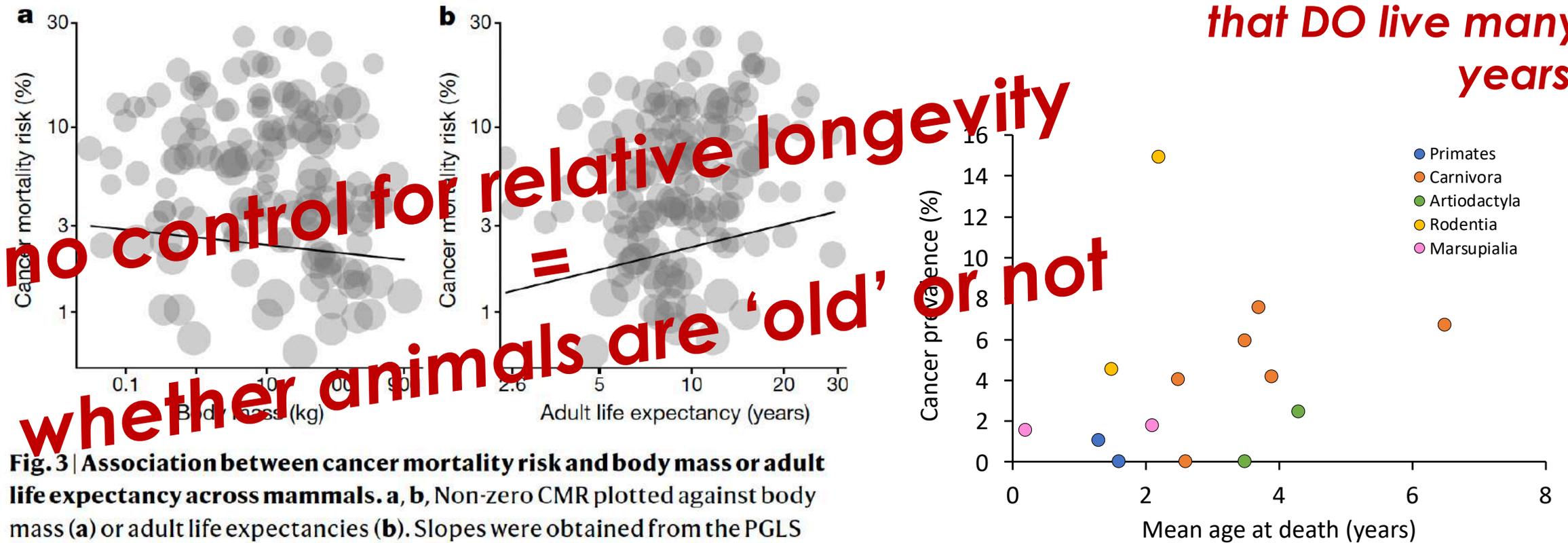


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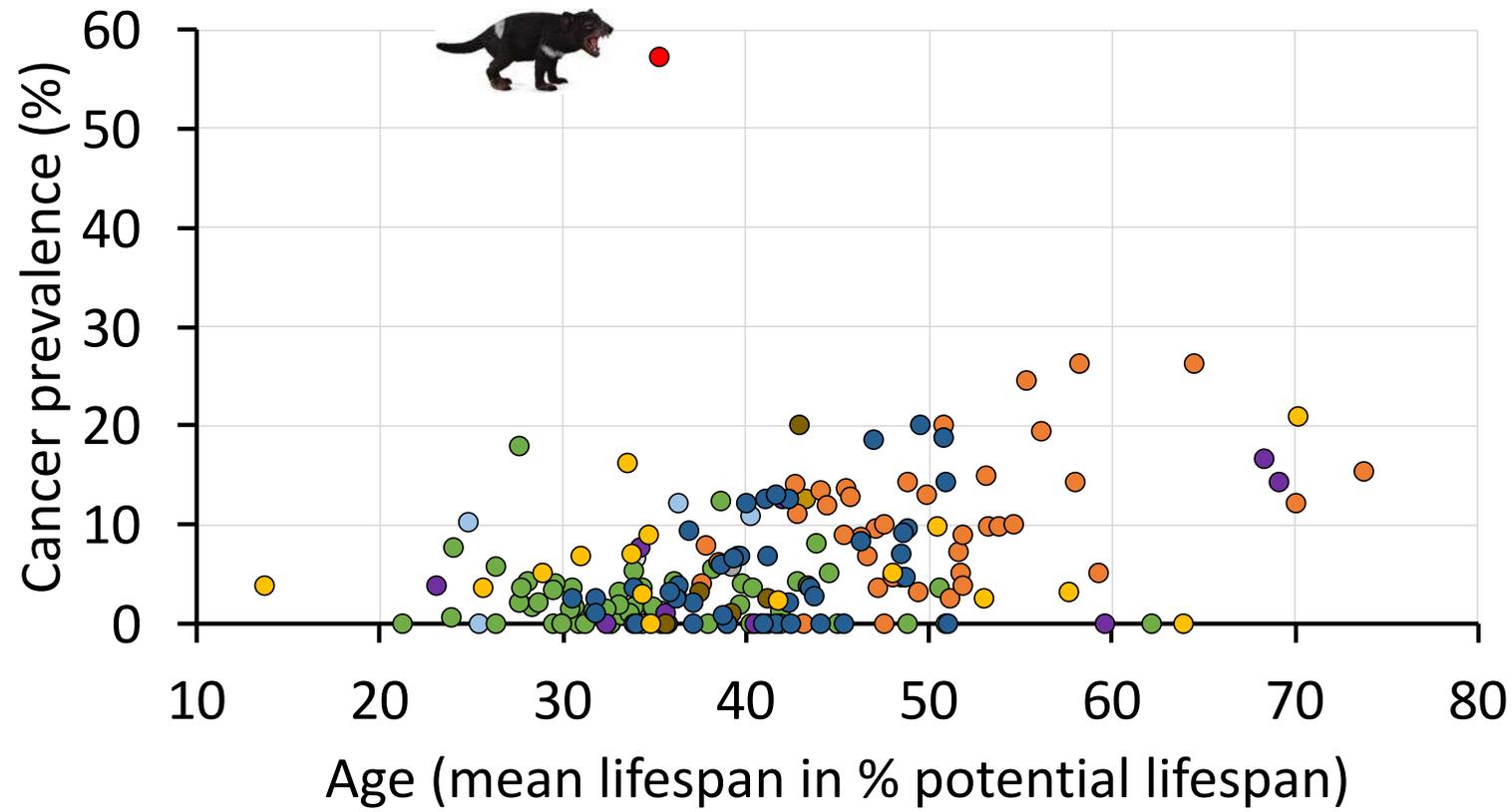
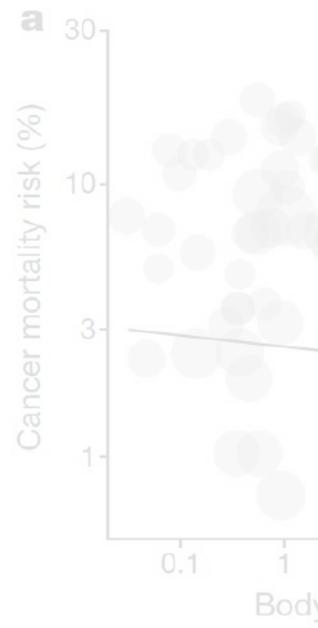
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**Fig. 3 | Association** life expectancy across mass (a) or adult life model presented in number of individuals with available postmortem pathological records.

- Afrosoricida
- Hyracoidea
- Macroscelida
- Diprodontia
- Dasyurid
- Pilosa
- Scandentia
- Artiodactyla
- Carnivora
- Chiroptera
- Perissodactyla
- Primates
- Rodentia

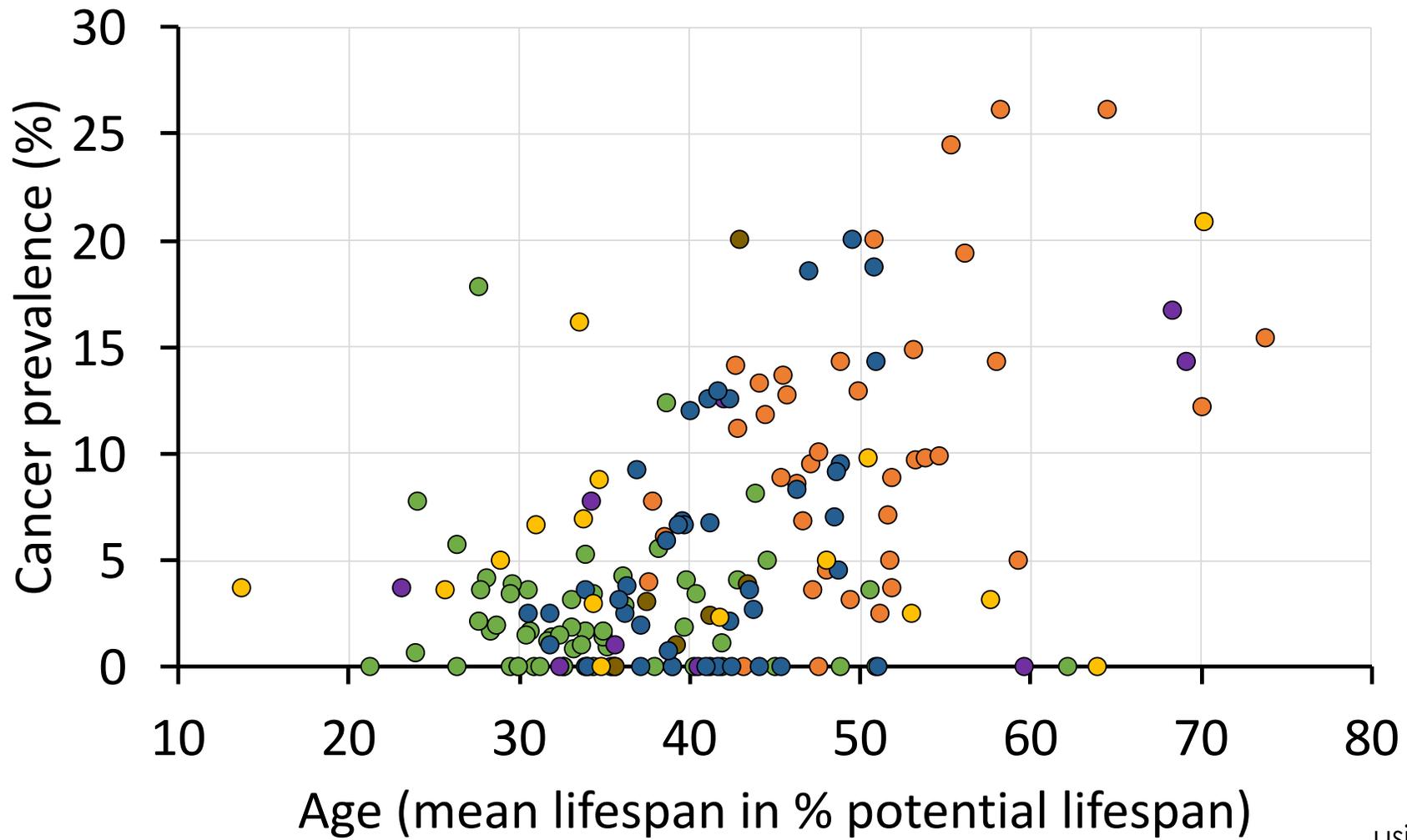
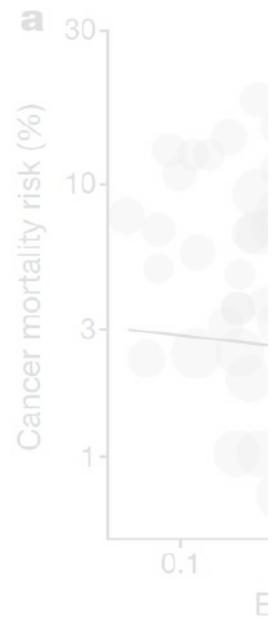
using longevity data from the AnAge database



# Cancer risk across mammals

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Samuel Pa...  
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...ddy<sup>14</sup>,

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● Artiodactyla ● Carnivora ● Chiroptera ● Perissodactyla ● Primates ● Rodentia

using longevity data from the AnAge database

Fig. 3 | Associati...  
life expectancy...  
mass (a) or adult...  
model presenter...  
number of indiv...



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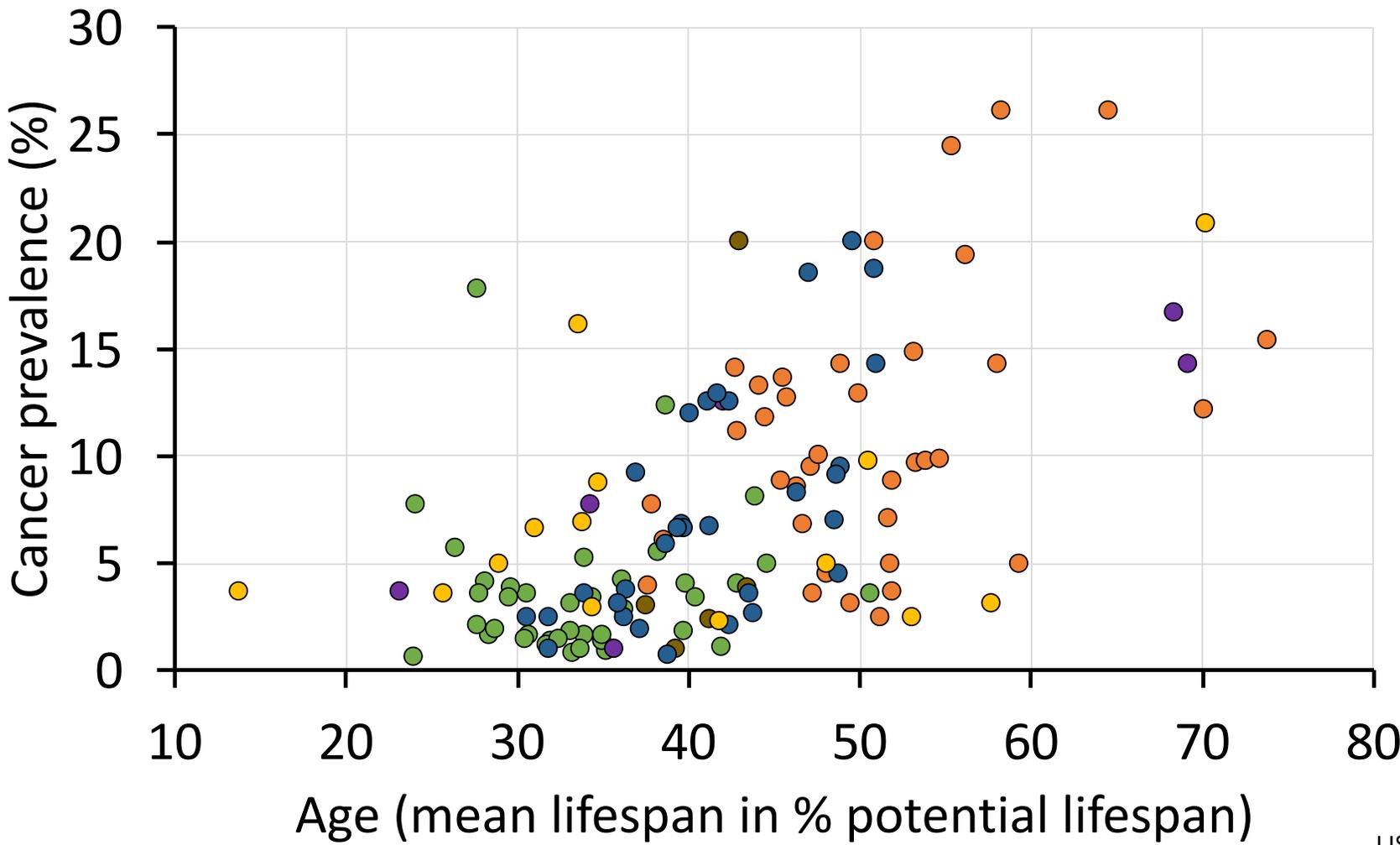


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Our study indicates that death due to oncogenic phenomena is frequent and taxonomically widespread in mammals. In some species more than 20–40% of the managed adult population die of cancer-related pathologies. This estimate is **staggering**, especially knowing that cancer incidences estimated here are conservative (Methods). This observation urges the extensive exploration of cancer in wildlife, especially in the context of recent environmental perturbations<sup>38</sup>, as **serious threats to animal welfare**<sup>29</sup>.



# Cancer risk across mammals

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**good zoo husbandry (i.e., higher welfare) should lead to more, not less, cancer**





*Which mammals develop cancer ?*



# *Which mammals develop cancer ?*



Those that are kept so that they get old enough.



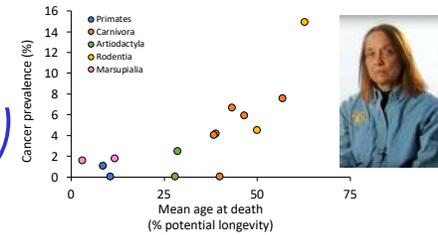
Summary: cancer (mostly) ...



# Summary: cancer (mostly) ...

... is a disease of old age.

*(old age cannot be counted in years, but in % of potential longevity)*





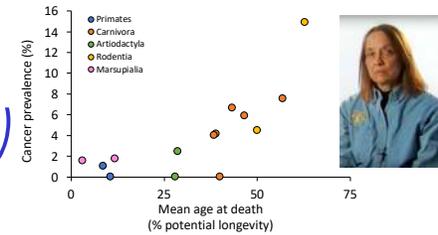
## Summary: cancer (mostly) ...

... is a disease of old age.

*(old age cannot be counted in years, but in % of potential longevity)*

... becomes more prevalent if mortality due to bad husbandry is reduced.

*(a high cancer prevalence therefore might well be a sign of good husbandry)*

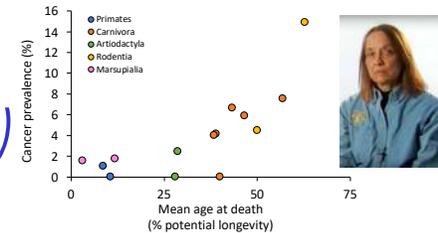




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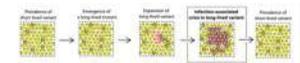
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... does not attack the organism but is **permitted by** the organism as part of an adaptation for aging.

*(cancer is not your friend, but it may be the friend of your offspring)*

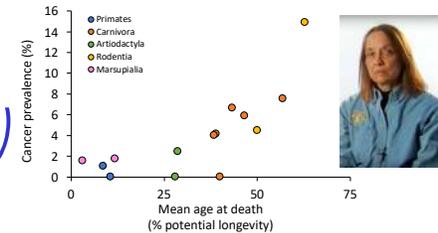




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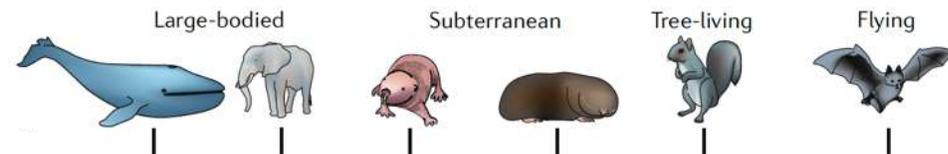
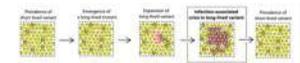
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**Because current comparative evaluations do not account for aging, we cannot conclude with certainty which species are particularly susceptible to cancer.**

**Detailed Status Information**

<b>Manuscript #</b>	<a href="#">2022-12-19728</a>
<b>Current Revision #</b>	0
<b>Submission Date</b>	10th December 22
<b>Current Stage</b>	Manuscript received
<b>Title</b>	Zoo cancer prevalence may not indicate intrinsic cancer risk but rather husbandry success
<b>Manuscript Type</b>	Matters Arising
<b>Corresponding Author</b>	Marcus Clauss (University of Zurich)
<b>Contributing Author</b>	Dennis Müller
<b>Authorship</b>	Yes
<b>Abstract</b>	ARISING FROM Vincze, O., Colchero, F., Lemaître, JF. et al. Cancer risk across mammals. Nature 601, 263–267 (2022). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-04224-5">https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-04224-5</a> In the tradition of evaluating cancer prevalence across zoo animal taxa to explore which biological characteristics make animals particularly susceptible or resistant to cancer, as done by Vincze et al. <sup>1</sup> , one must not overlook that whether a taxon lives long enough to develop cancer will depend distinctively on how easily it is managed in zoos.
<b>Subject Terms</b>	Biological sciences/Cancer/Cancer epidemiology Biological sciences/Zoology/Animal physiology
<b>Show Author Information</b>	Allow Referees to see Author information.
<b>Competing interests policy</b>	There is <b>NO</b> Competing Interest.
<b>Applicable Funding Source</b>	No Applicable Funding
<b>Previous Interactions</b>	None of the above

Stage	Start Date
Manuscript received	10th December 22
Manuscript under submission	10th December 22



1 BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS ARISING

2

3 **Zoo cancer prevalence may not indicate intrinsic cancer risk but rather**  
 4 **husbandry success**

5

6 **ARISING FROM** Vincze, O., Colchero, F., Lemaître, JF. *et al.* Cancer risk across  
 7 mammals. *Nature* **601**, 263–267 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-04224-5>

8

9 **In the tradition of evaluating cancer prevalence across zoo animal taxa to explore which**  
 10 **biological characteristics make animals particularly susceptible or resistant to cancer,**  
 11 **as done by Vincze et al.<sup>1</sup>, one must not overlook that whether a taxon lives long enough**  
 12 **to develop cancer will depend distinctively on how easily it is managed in zoos.**

13

14 Comparative pathologist Herbert L. Ratcliffe revolutionized zoo animal nutrition.<sup>2</sup> In doing  
 15 so, he increased cancer prevalence in mammals at the Philadelphia Zoo from 2.6% between  
 16 1901-1932<sup>3</sup> to 4.6% after the diet transformation in 1935.<sup>4</sup> Better diets lead to more cancer?  
 17 Of course. The prevalence of all causes of death must add up to 100% - you have to die of  
 18 something. You take away husbandry-related deaths like malnutrition, and the prevalence of  
 19 other causes must increase. Cancer is (not only, but mainly) an old-age phenomenon. If  
 20 cancer prevalence is high among zoo animals, this is not ‘staggering’ or indication of a  
 21 ‘threat to animal welfare’,<sup>1</sup> but rather a sign zoos are doing something right: keeping animals  
 22 alive long enough for cancer to develop.

23 For an individual animal taxon, this might mean that cancer prevalence in zoos does not  
 24 necessarily indicate a specific susceptibility or intrinsic ‘cancer risk’,<sup>1</sup> but how successful the  
 25 husbandry of the taxon actually is. Taxa differ in how successfully they are kept in zoos.<sup>e.g.5</sup>  
 26 In one of the first comparative cancer evaluations,<sup>3</sup> Ratcliffe himself demonstrated this  
 27 already: those species that attained, at Philadelphia zoo at the time, a higher proportion of  
 28 their potential lifespan had more cancer. Plotting his tabulated data – crude as it is – makes  
 29 the point: There is no clear pattern of cancer prevalence with a taxon’s potential lifespan (Fig.  
 30 1A; a concept used repeatedly in the comparative cancer literature<sup>e.g.6</sup> that might even suggest  
 31 a decrease in cancer prevalence in animals with a high potential lifespan), or with a taxon’s  
 32 mean absolute lifespan actually achieved at the zoo (Fig. 1B; the concept used in the recent  
 33 comparative cancer study by Vincze et al.<sup>1</sup>). However, there is a clear relationship with the  
 34 mean *relative* lifespan (the mean age attained at the zoo in % of the taxon’s potential  
 35 lifespan; Fig. 1C): taxa that get *relatively* older have more cancer.<sup>3</sup> Rather than indicating a  
 36 specific cancer risk for carnivores,<sup>1</sup> the comparative zoo cancer literature might inadvertently  
 37 give testimony that carnivores fare particularly well in zoos<sup>7</sup> and their husbandry has been  
 38 continuously improving.<sup>8</sup> Without accounting for this fact, any evaluation of zoo-derived data  
 39 cannot indicate intrinsic taxon-specific cancer risks with certainty but might only indicate  
 40 which taxa are kept particularly successfully.

41

42 **Marcus Clauss<sup>1\*</sup>, Dennis W. H. Müller<sup>2</sup>**

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 44 Switzerland

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46 \*e-mail: [mclauss@vetclinics.uzh.ch](mailto:mclauss@vetclinics.uzh.ch)

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 66 in zoo-kept carnivores. *Zoo Biol.* **40**, 588-595 (2021).

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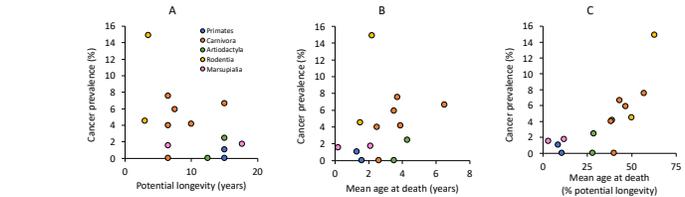
68

69 **Author contributions** Both authors developed the concept for this comment. MC performed  
 70 the literature research.

71

72 **Competing interests** Declared none.

73



74 **Fig. 1 |** The relationship of cancer prevalence to a taxon’s potential absolute longevity (A),  
 75 mean actual absolute lifespan (B), and its mean relative lifespan (C). Note that the data do not  
 76 indicate taxon-specific cancer susceptibility but that those taxa that achieved a relatively  
 77 higher proportion of their longevity at this particular zoo had a higher cancer prevalence.  
 78 Data from Ratcliffe<sup>3</sup>.



*thank you for your attention*

