



# Longevity black swans:

**Looking beyond past trends to what potential disruptive developments in medicine, healthcare, technology and lifestyle may mean for life expectancy**

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- **Introduction: What is a longevity Black Swan?**
- Drivers of longevity extension
  - Lifestyle impact
  - Heath environment impact
  - Medicine impact
  - The facilitating role of technology
- A realistic disruptive scenario

# What is a “black swan”?<sup>1</sup>

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## A Black Swan is

an event or occurrence that deviates significantly beyond what is normally expected and that would be extremely difficult to predict

### *Characteristics:*

- A low-probability outlier, beyond experience and expectation
- It has an extreme impact
- It is explainable afterwards, despite being difficult to predict

1. Nassim Nicholas Taleb, "The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable."

**Key question is a question of risk**

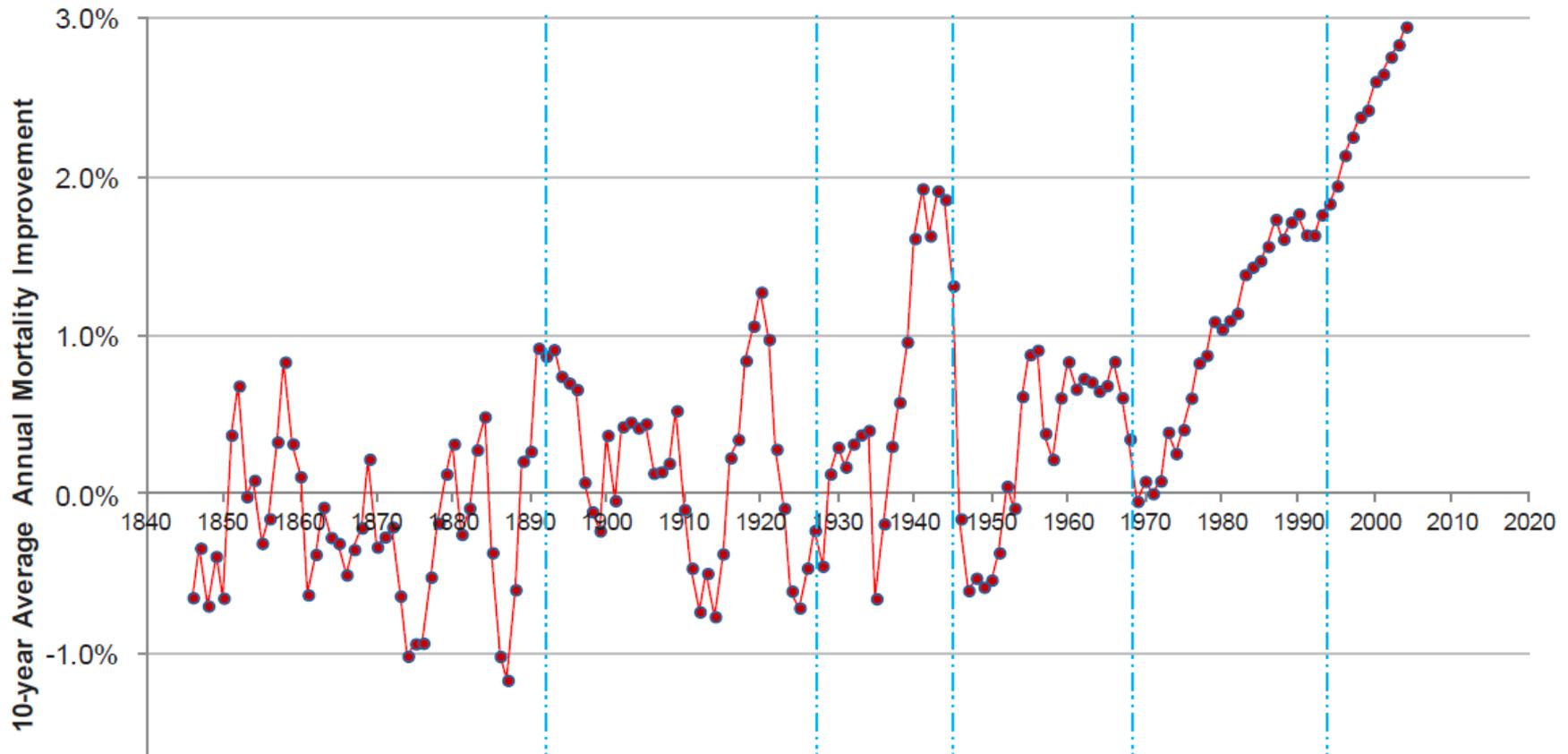
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Is there potential for significant extension of human lifespans?

There are potentially enormous financial, social, political implications

# Do past mortality improvements suggest a black swan?

## Mortality improvement rates for UK males aged 75-85<sup>1</sup>



Source: RMS (2012). "Longevity Risk: Setting the long-term mortality improvement rate. What medical science tells us about future longevity risk"

# Is there scope for a future longevity black swan?

## Possible black swans include:

- Closure of the LE gap between different socio-economic classes?
- Closure of the LE gap between countries?
- Increases in overall LE driven by advances in lifestyle, health provision and medicine?

## Potential drivers likely to include “disruptors” related to:

- Government policy (health, social, economic)
- Education
- Affluence
- Medical science
- Big data
- Technology

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# There are three well-established categories for the drivers of gains in life expectancy

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## Lifestyle

- Diet
- Exercise
- Smoking
- Health-consciousness

## Health Environment

- Healthcare provision
- Public health
- Social support
- Housing & sanitation
- Pollution

## Medicine

- Treatments:
  - CVD
  - Cancer
  - Respiratory
  - Dementia
- Future developments:
  - Regenerative medicine
  - Anti-ageing

These are the obvious starting point for black-swan hunting

# Lifestyle: Diet

Japanese diet

**Japan:**  
BMJ 2016  
Size: 79,594

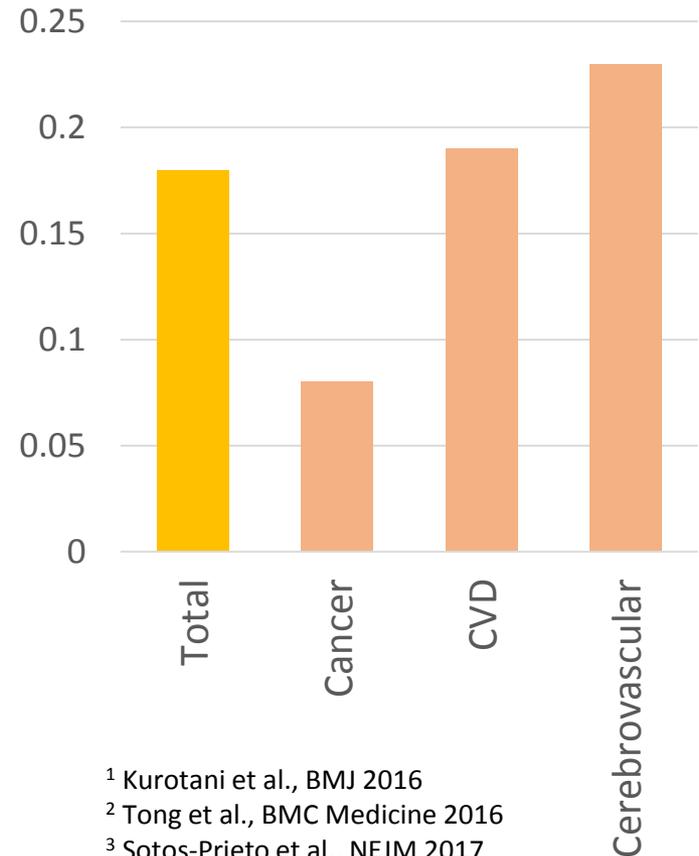
Mediterranean diet

**US:**  
NEJM, 2017  
Size: 73,739

Mediterranean diet

**UK:**  
BMC Medicine 2016  
Size: 23,902

Reduction in mortality hazard rate for high-quality Japanese diet<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Kurotani et al., BMJ 2016

<sup>2</sup> Tong et al., BMC Medicine 2016

<sup>3</sup> Sotos-Prieto et al., NEJM 2017

The right diet significantly reduces mortality rates

# Lifestyle: Physical exercise

## Study of 5823 adults (2017)<sup>1</sup>

- Intense physical exercise
  - Reduces cellular ageing by 9 years
  - Lengthens telomeres
- “High activity” means
  - Jogging 200 minutes per week

## Other 2017 studies

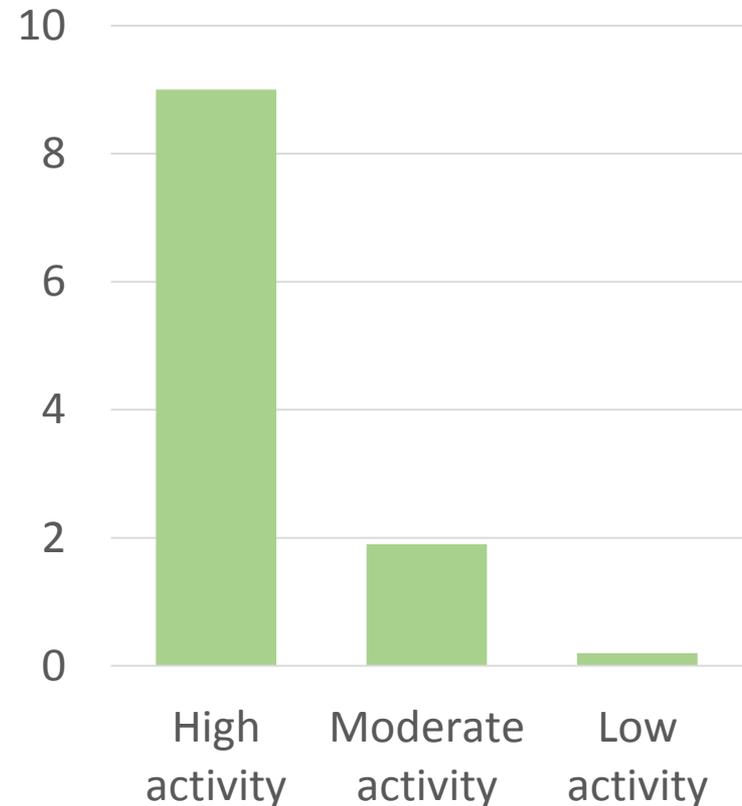
- High-Intensity Interval Training improves decline in muscle mitochondria<sup>2</sup>
- Running increases LE by 3 years<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tucker et al., *Preventative Medicine*, 2017

<sup>2</sup> Robertson et al., *Cell Metabolism*, 2017

<sup>3</sup> Lee et al., *Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases*, 2017

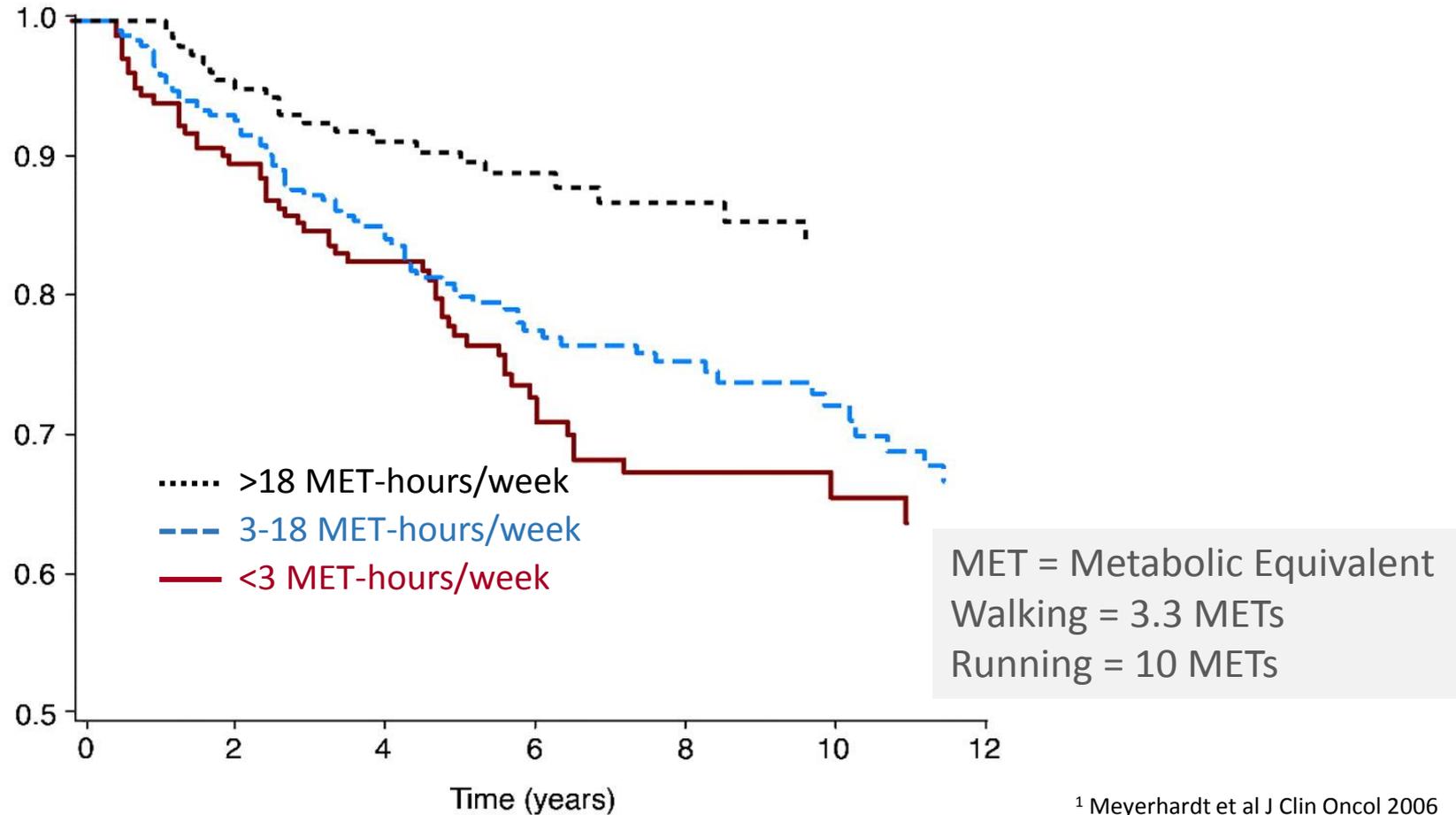
## Biological ageing advantage (years) relative to sedentary adults<sup>1</sup>



**Intense exercise significantly reduces cellular ageing and increases LE**

# Exercise also boosts cancer survival

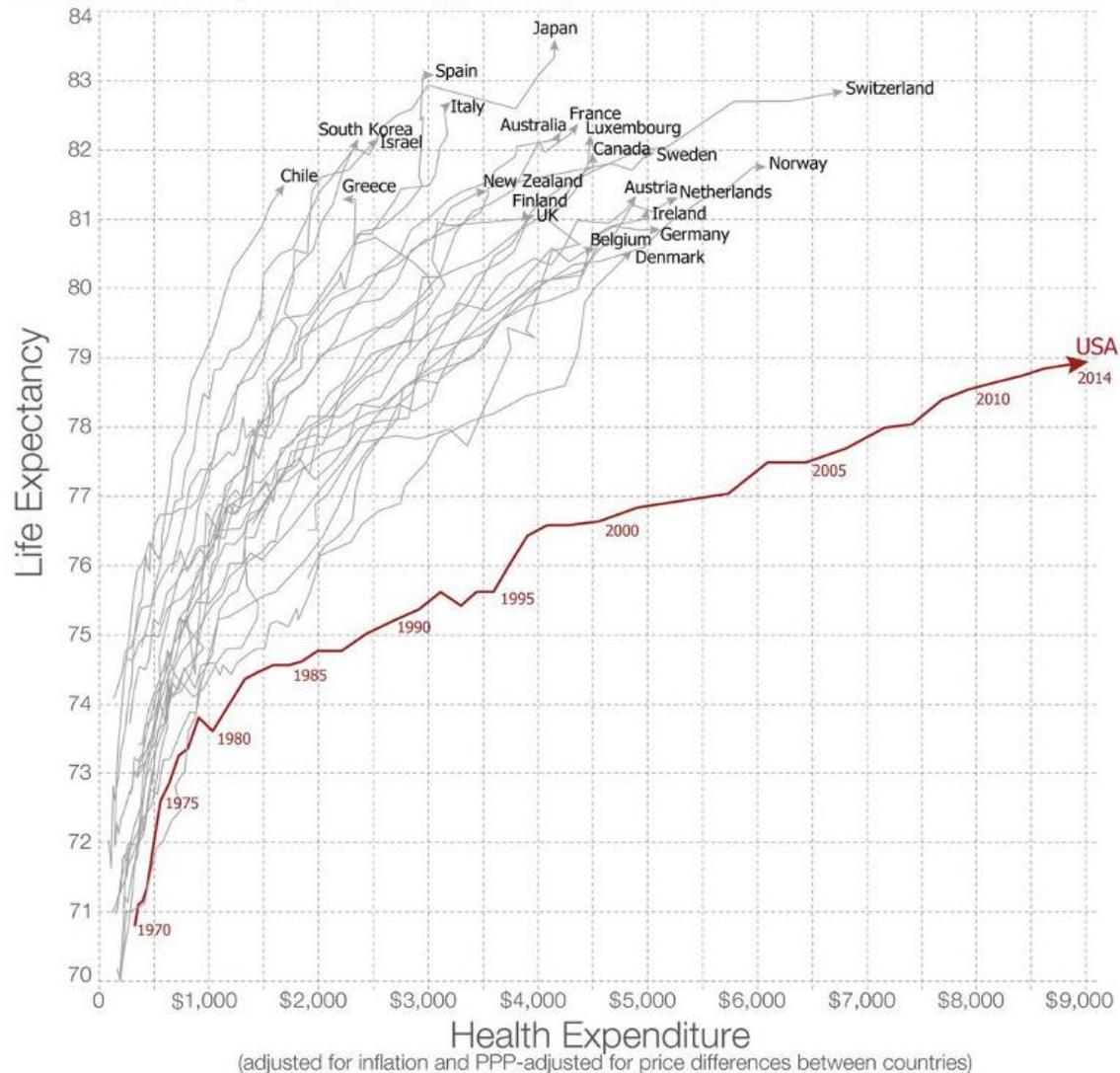
## Survival rates colorectal cancer (proportion alive)<sup>1</sup>



Again, the more intense the exercise the better

# Health environment: LE rises with health expenditure

## Life expectancy vs. health expenditure 1970-2014



# Health environment: Pollution impact

- There is a negative correlation between LE and concentration of PM2.5 (particles <2.5 micrometres diameter)

## US study 2009<sup>1</sup>

- 217 counties, 51 cities
- Reducing concentration of PM2.5 by 10 micrograms per cubic metre increased LE by 0.77 years

## Similar Western studies

- Increase in concentration by this amount reduces LE:
  - Netherlands: 1.1 years
  - Finland: 1.37 years
  - Canada: 0.80 years

## EPIC China study 2017<sup>2</sup>

- 154 cities over 2004-2012
- Difference in LE north vs south of Huai river: 3.1 years
- Due to air pollution from coal burning

<sup>1</sup> Pope et al., NEJM 2009

<sup>2</sup> Ebenstein et al., PNAS 2017

There are significant LE benefits from clean air

## Even regulators are predicting a step-change in the impact of medical science

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“New technologies ... hold out the potential to transform medicine and create an inflection point in our ability to treat and even cure many intractable illnesses.”

*FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D.  
30 August 2017*

# Immunotherapy has been generating headlines

**FDA** U.S. FOOD & DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION

30 August 2017

FDA News Release

## FDA approval brings first gene therapy to the United States

*CAR T-cell therapy approved to treat certain children and young adults with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia*

“We’re entering a new frontier in medical innovation with the ability to reprogram a patient’s own cells to attack a deadly cancer.”

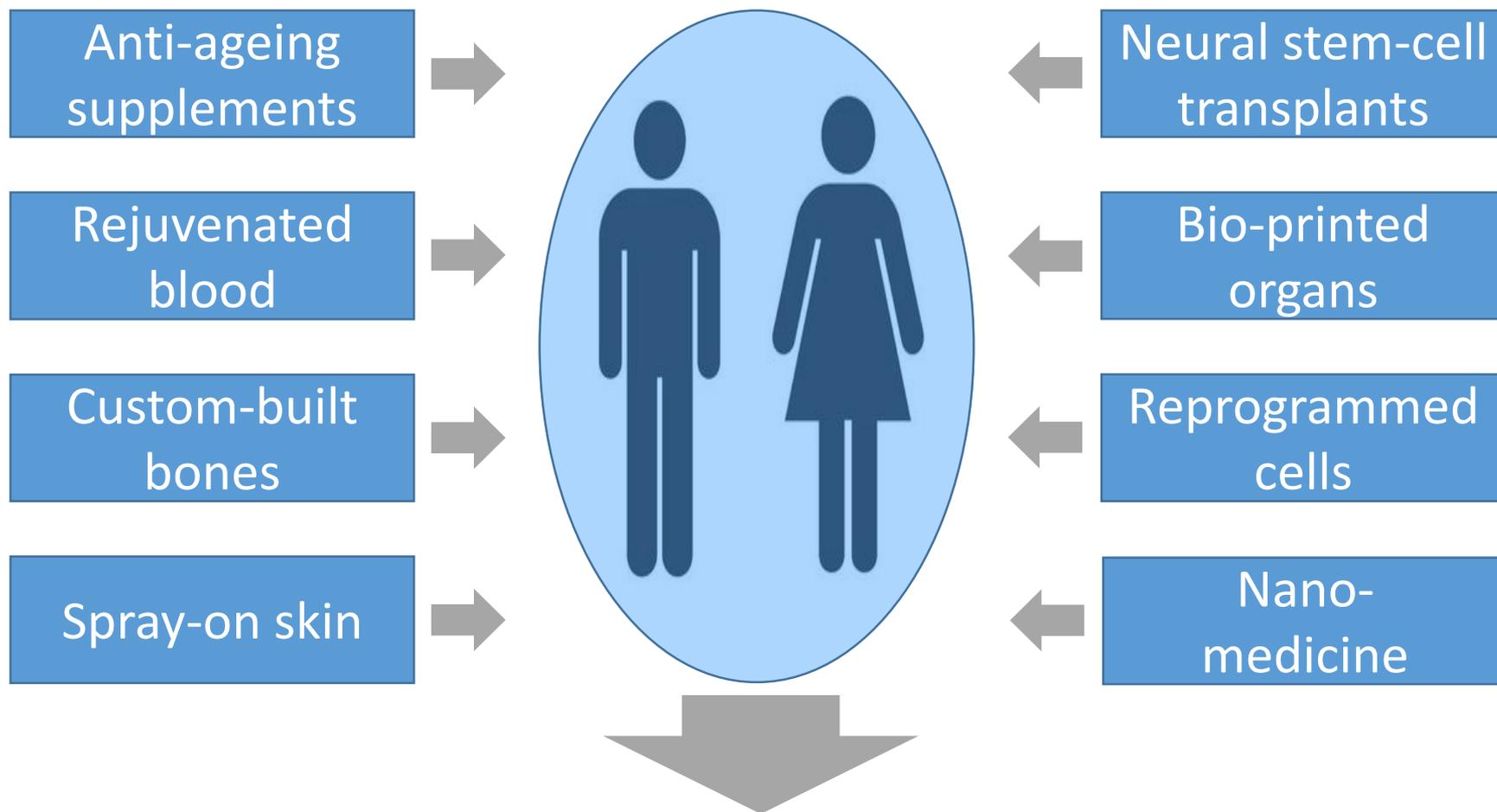
*FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D.*

Cost: \$475,000



Photo: Novartis

# New frontiers: Regenerative medicine and anti-ageing research



**Significantly increased life expectancy(?)**

# Regenerative medicine embraces many approaches

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- A multi-disciplinary approach involving methods to regrow, repair or replace damaged/diseased cells, organs or tissues

## Tissue engineering

Customised materials (cells and synthetics) to replace injured or diseased tissues

## Cell therapy

Getting cells to grow into different kinds of tissue to heal an injury or cure a disease

## Artificial organs

Keep patients alive while they await a donor organ, and sometimes eliminate the need for a transplant

## Other therapies

Individualised gene therapy, nanomedicine

# Tissue engineering has been making steady – but not black-swan-like – progress

Medical  press

## Diabetics get blood vessels made from donor cells

June 27, 2011 By MARILYNN MARCHIONE , AP Medical Writer

2011

Medical Daily

## Esophagus Grown And Transplanted With Tissue Engineering In Regenerative Medicine Breakthrough

Apr 15, 2014 04:22 PM By John Ericson

2014



RESEARCH & INNOVATION

**HORIZON**  
The EU Research &  
Innovation Magazine

## Living heart valves grown in laboratories

12 November 2015

2015

# Cell therapy is making significant progress

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- Induced Pluripotent Stem cells (iPS cells) are 10 years old
  - Stem cells from other cells e.g., ordinary skin cells

## Retinal cells

- Treatment for blindness, macular degeneration
- Clinical trials are underway

## Blood platelets

- Mass production now possible
- Treatments for cancer, trauma, transplants, surgery
- Clinical trials Japan, US 2018, Europe 2019

## Neurons

- Treatment for Parkinson's disease
- Successful animal trials completed with monkeys

# Recent breakthrough: Reprogrammed retinal cells transplanted from donor

**nature** International weekly journal of science

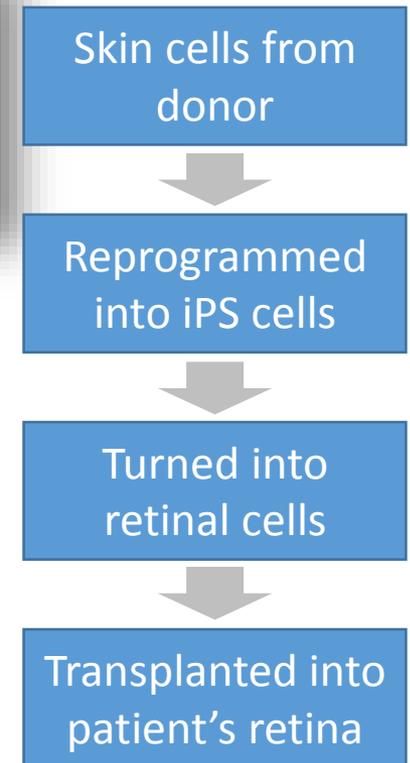
28 March 2017

## Japanese man is first to receive 'reprogrammed' stem cells from another person

World-first transplant, used to treat macular degeneration, represents a major step forward in movement to create banks of ready-made stem cells.

→ Treatment to arrest age-related macular degeneration

- In 2014 a Japanese woman underwent similar procedure, but using her own skin cells
- A year later, her vision had not deteriorated further



# Recent breakthrough: Production of blood stem cells

**nature** International weekly journal of science

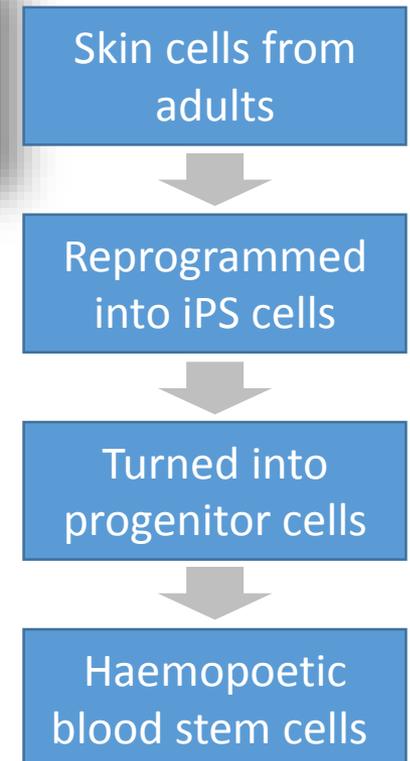
17 May 2017

## Lab-grown blood stem cells produced at last

Two research teams cook up recipe to make long-sought cells in mice and people.

→ Treatment leukaemia and other blood disorders

- Mature cells transformed into primordial blood cells that regenerate themselves and the components of blood.



# Recent breakthrough: Therapies to reverse age-related cognitive decline

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PNAS

8 August 2017

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

## **Arc restores juvenile plasticity in adult mouse visual cortex**

A single gene “Arc” can rejuvenate the plasticity of the mouse brain.

**nature** International weekly journal of science

30 Aug 2017

## **Reprogrammed cells relieve Parkinson's symptoms in trials**

Monkeys implanted with neurons derived from stem cells showed sustained improvement after two years.

# Anti-ageing: Many interventions have been highly successful in extending lifespans of lab animals

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- Caloric restriction
- “Fasting mimicking diet” (FMD)
- Dietary supplements (drugs)
- Tweaking genes
- Repressing inflammation genes in the brain
- Transfusing blood of the young into the old
- Extension of telomeres
- Senescent cell removal

# Recent breakthroughs: Advances in anti-ageing treatments

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**nature** International weekly journal of science

3 Feb 2016

## Destroying worn-out cells makes mice live longer

Elegant experiment confirms that targeting senescent cells could treat age-related diseases.

- 25% increase in median life span
- Healthier

**TIME** | Health

23 Mar 2017

## Scientists Can Reverse DNA Aging in Mice

- Repair DNA damage due to age or radiation
- NASA is interested

# Can success with animals be translated into humans?

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For round worms (*C. elegans*) scientists have achieved a 10-fold increase in lifespan!

- The round worm has only 959 cells
  - Yet over 550 genes have been found to modulate lifespan
- Humans are much, much more complicated

Despite the hype, our best estimate is we still have a long way to go

# Very smart, very successful people with huge resources are turning to the challenge of extending life

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## Exclusive: TIME Talks to Google CEO Larry Page About Its New Venture to Extend Human Life

Bold project, to be led by biotech pioneer Arthur Levinson, will tackle's some of health care's biggest problems

By TIME Staff | Sept. 18, 2013

≡ TIME

## The Obsession With 'Curing' Aging Is Now Big Business

by Laura Lorenzetti

@lauralorenzetti

MARCH 7, 2016, 6:00 AM EST

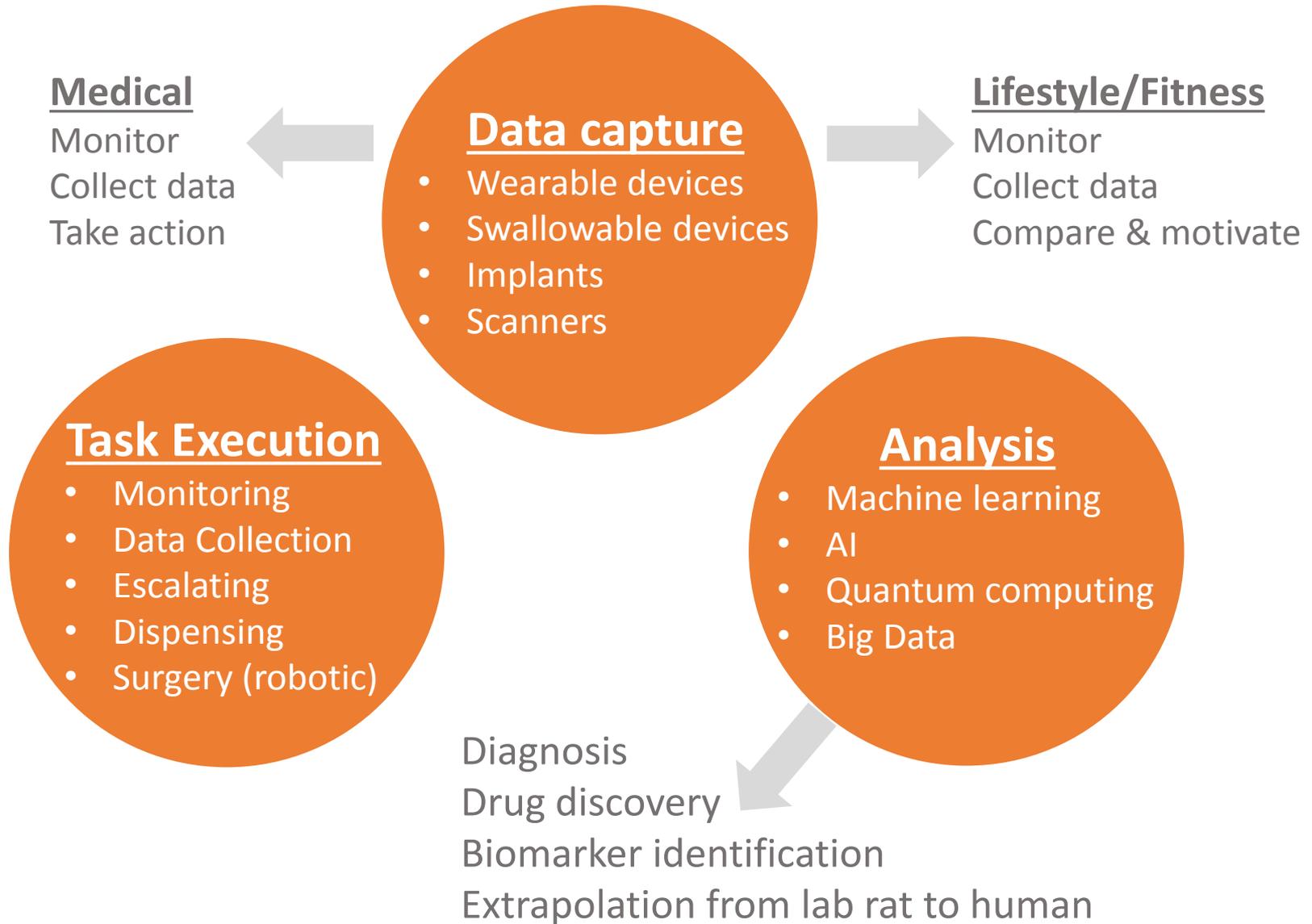
### Tech titans bankrolling it.

≡ FORTUNE

1. Peter Thiel – Founder of PayPal
2. Bill Maris – President “Google Ventures”
3. Arthur Levinson – ex-CEO & Chief Scientist Genentech; CEO Google’s “Calico”
4. Dave Gobel – co-founder of the Methuselah Foundation
5. Craig Venter – Key contributor to first human genome decoding
6. Martine Rothblatt – Founder Sirius Satellite Radio; CEO United Therapeutics

# The role of technology in increasing life expectancy is multifaceted

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# Longevity predictions offer divergent future scenarios

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## Exponential Growth?

“What I'm after is not living to 1,000. I'm after letting people avoid death for as long as they want to.”

*Aubrey De Grey*

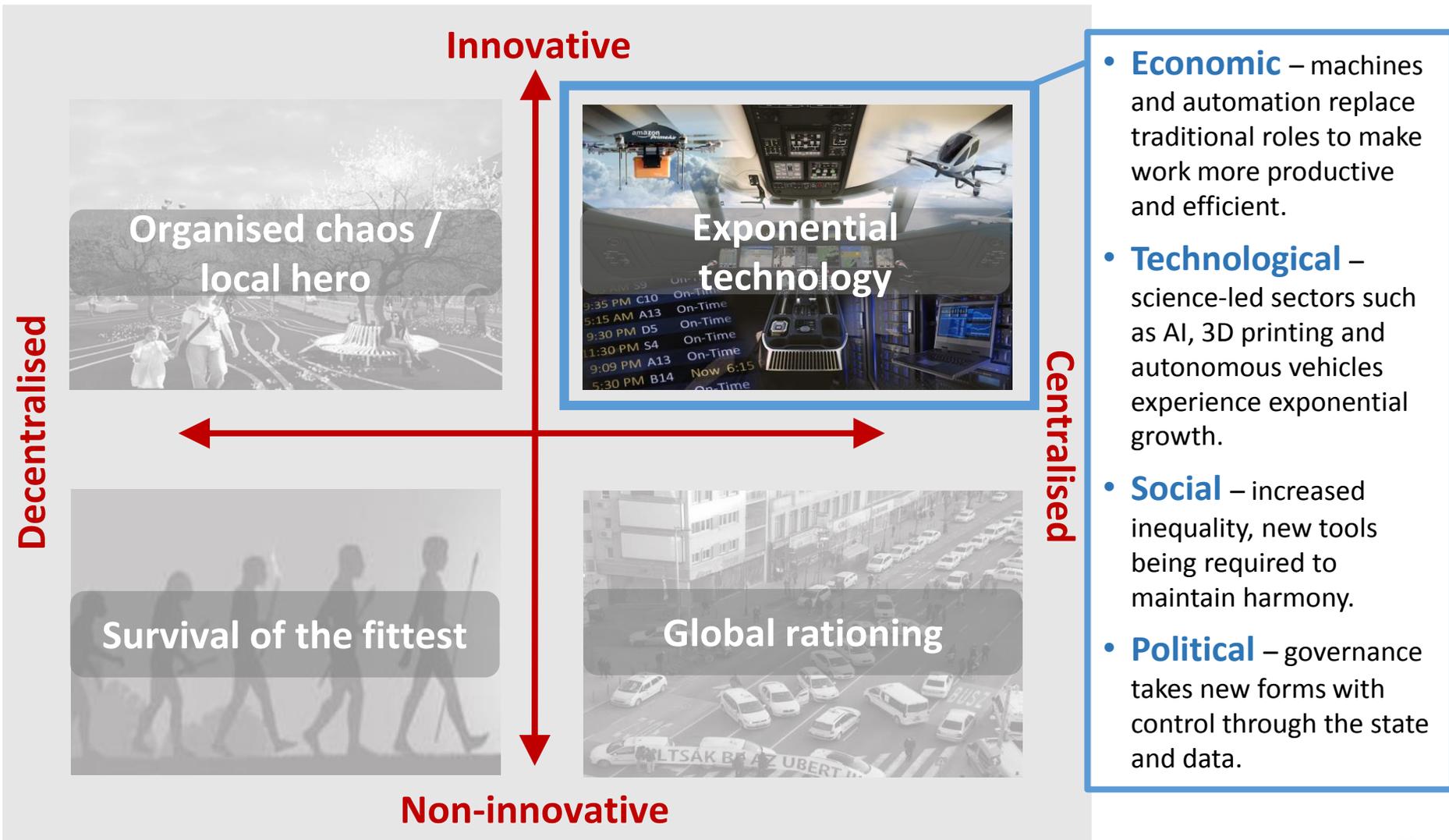


## Stagnation?

“While eliminating smallpox and curtailing cholera added decades of life to vast populations, cures for the chronic diseases of old age cannot have the same effect on life expectancy. A cure for cancer would be miraculous and welcome, but it would lead to only a three-year increase in life expectancy at birth.”

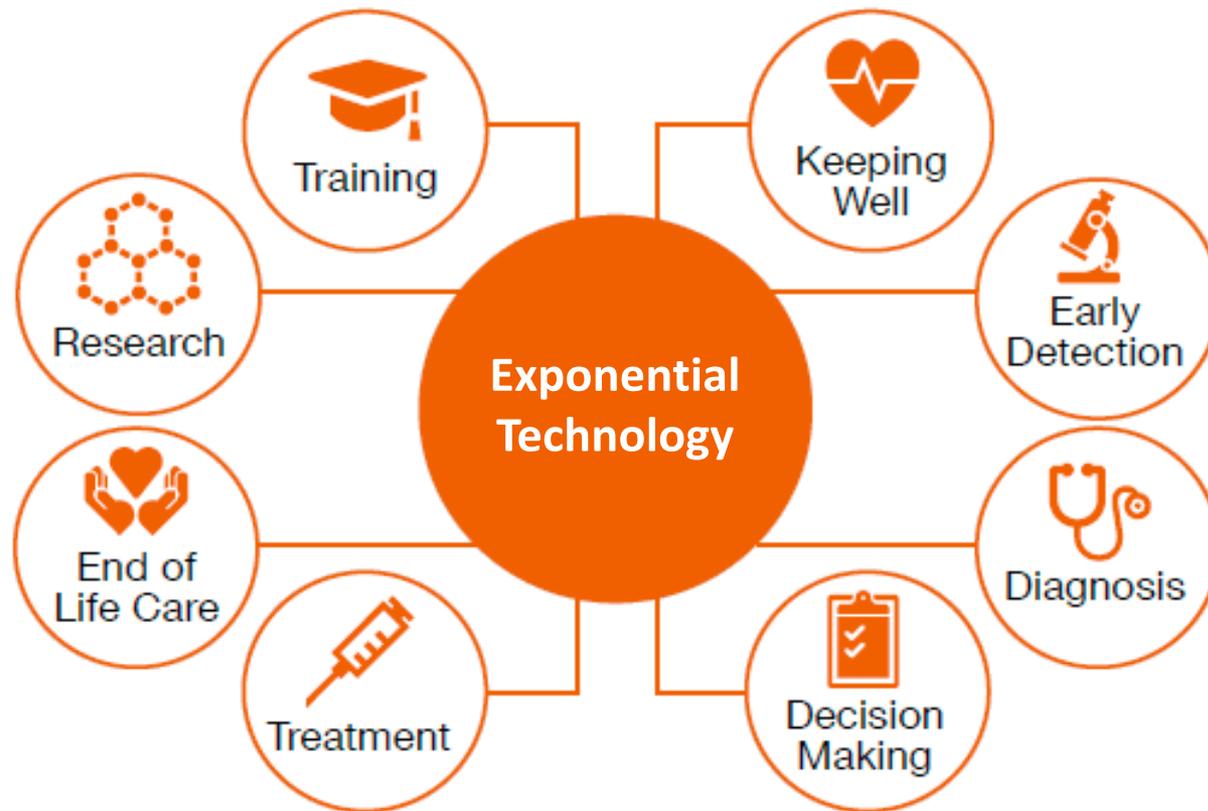
*S. Jay Olshansky*

# A scenario: “Exponential technology”



# Drivers of longevity growth

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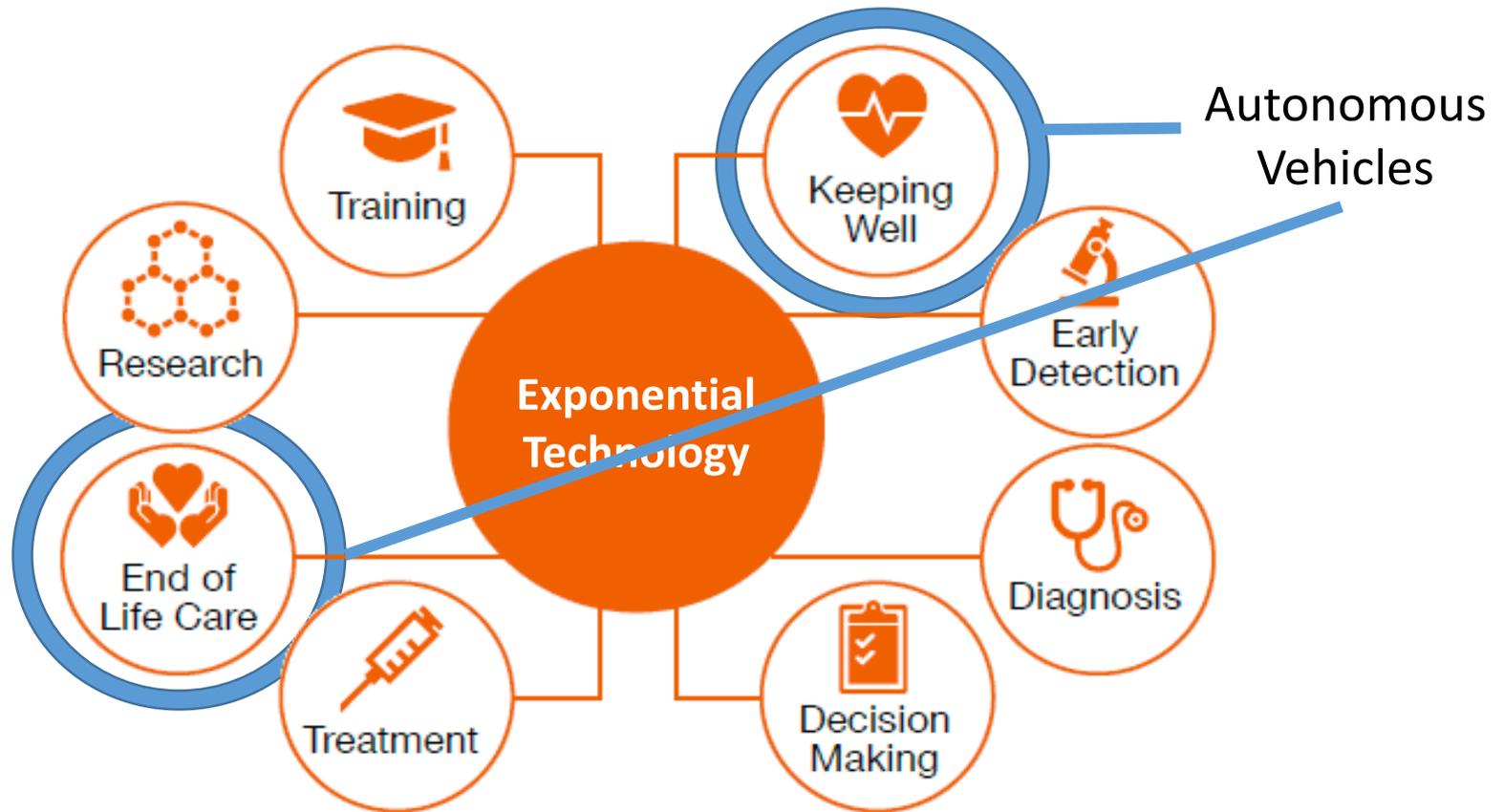


# Drivers of longevity growth

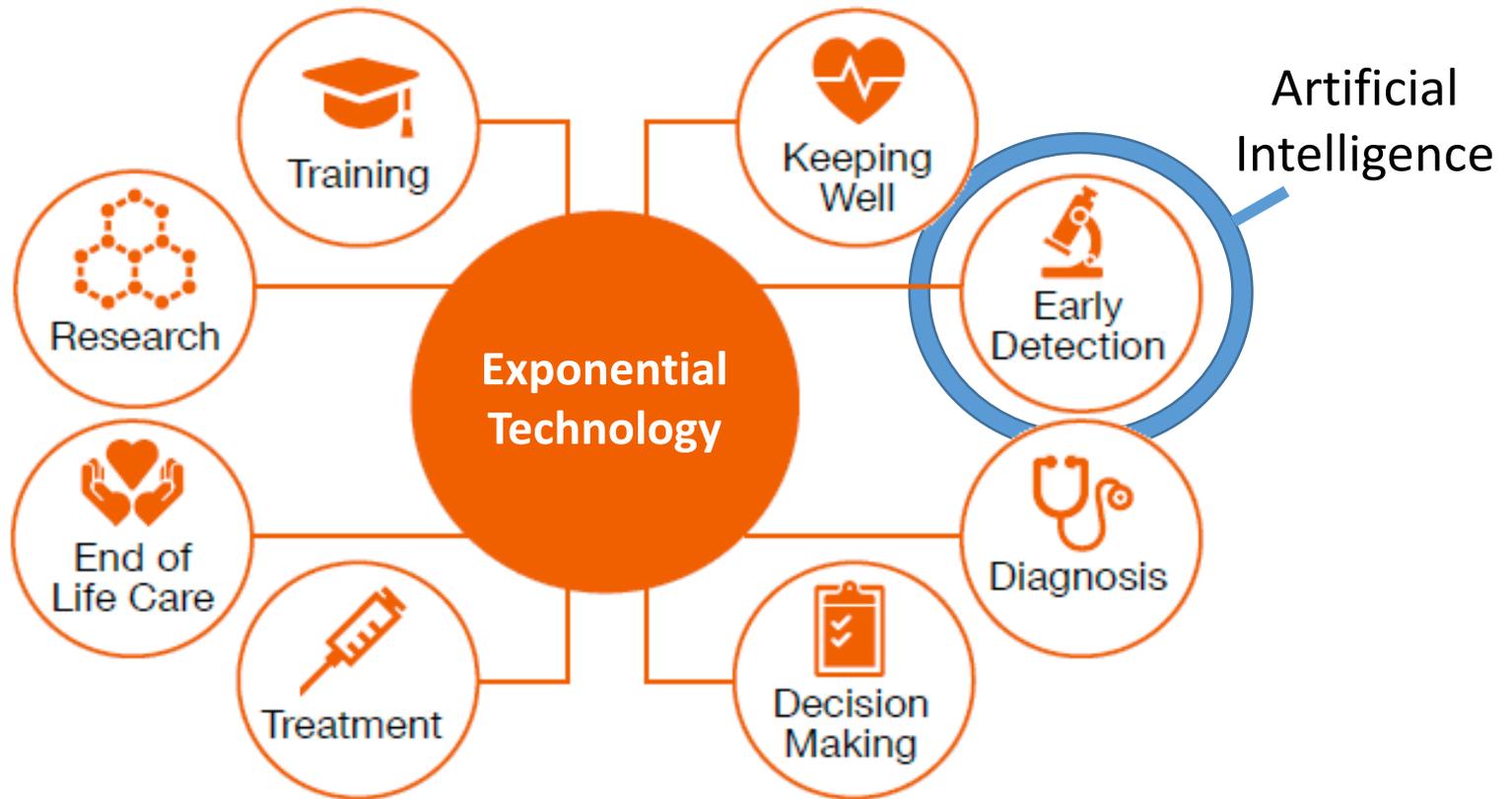


3D Printing  
of organs

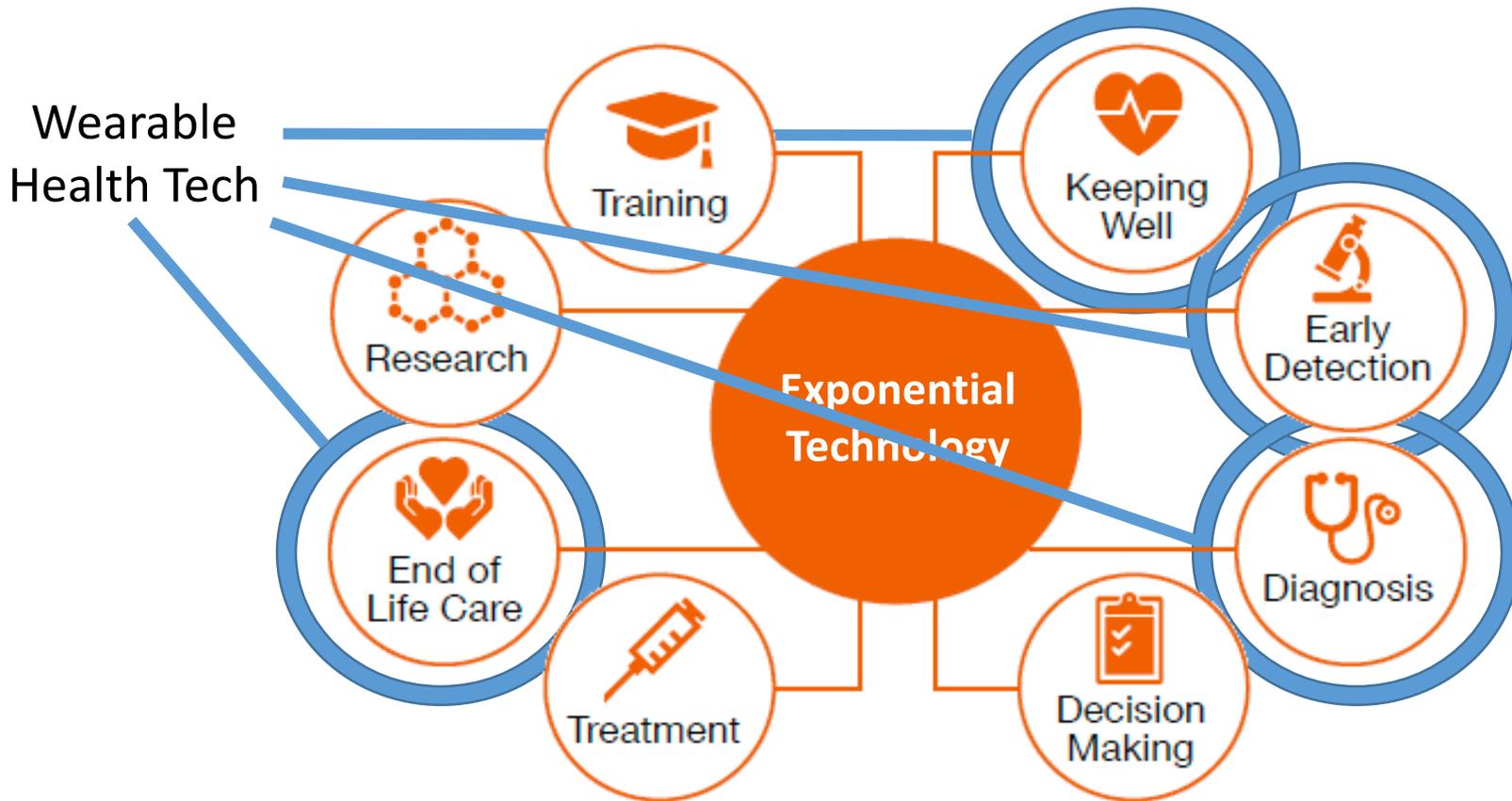
# Drivers of longevity growth



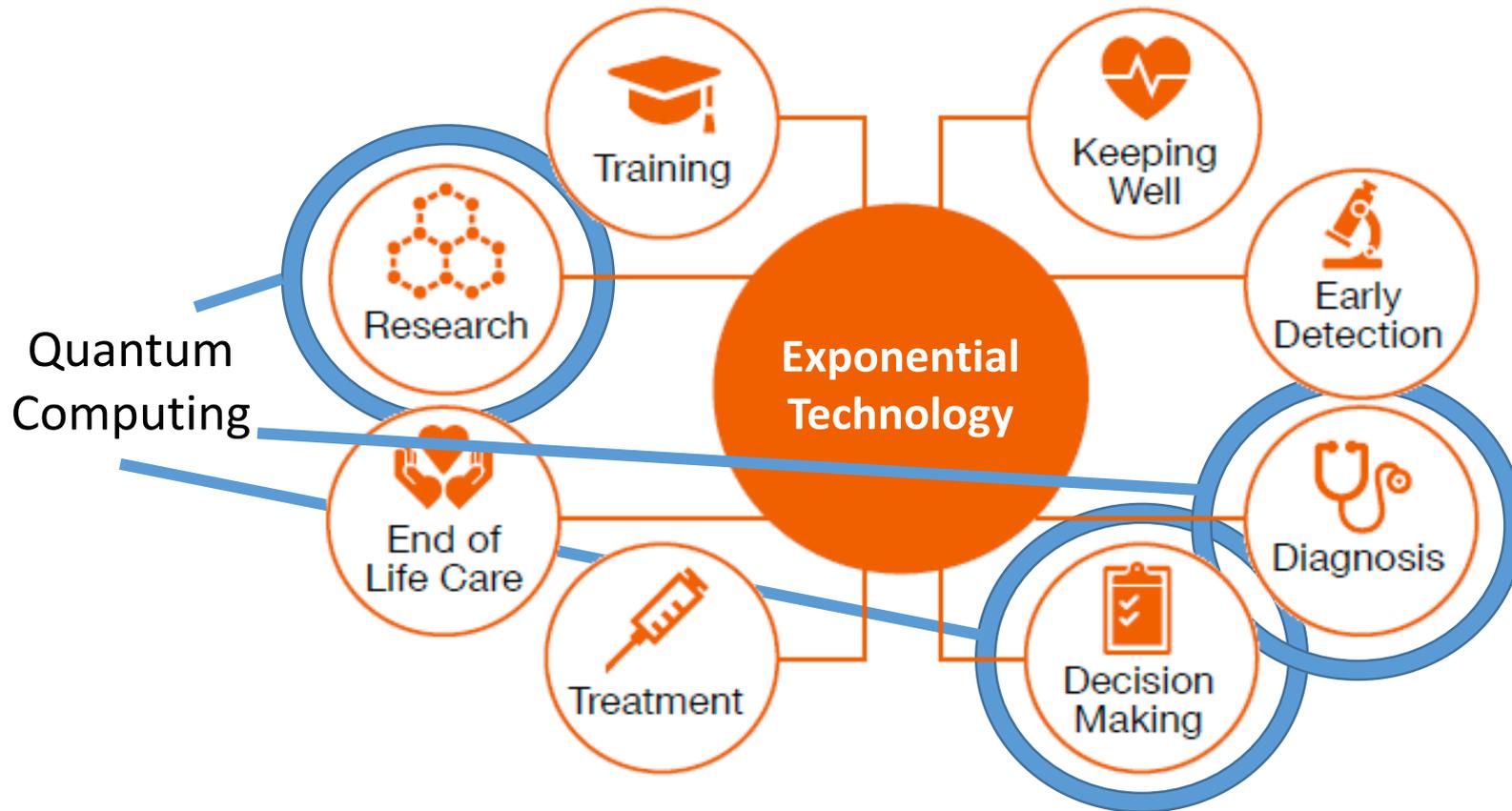
# Drivers of longevity growth



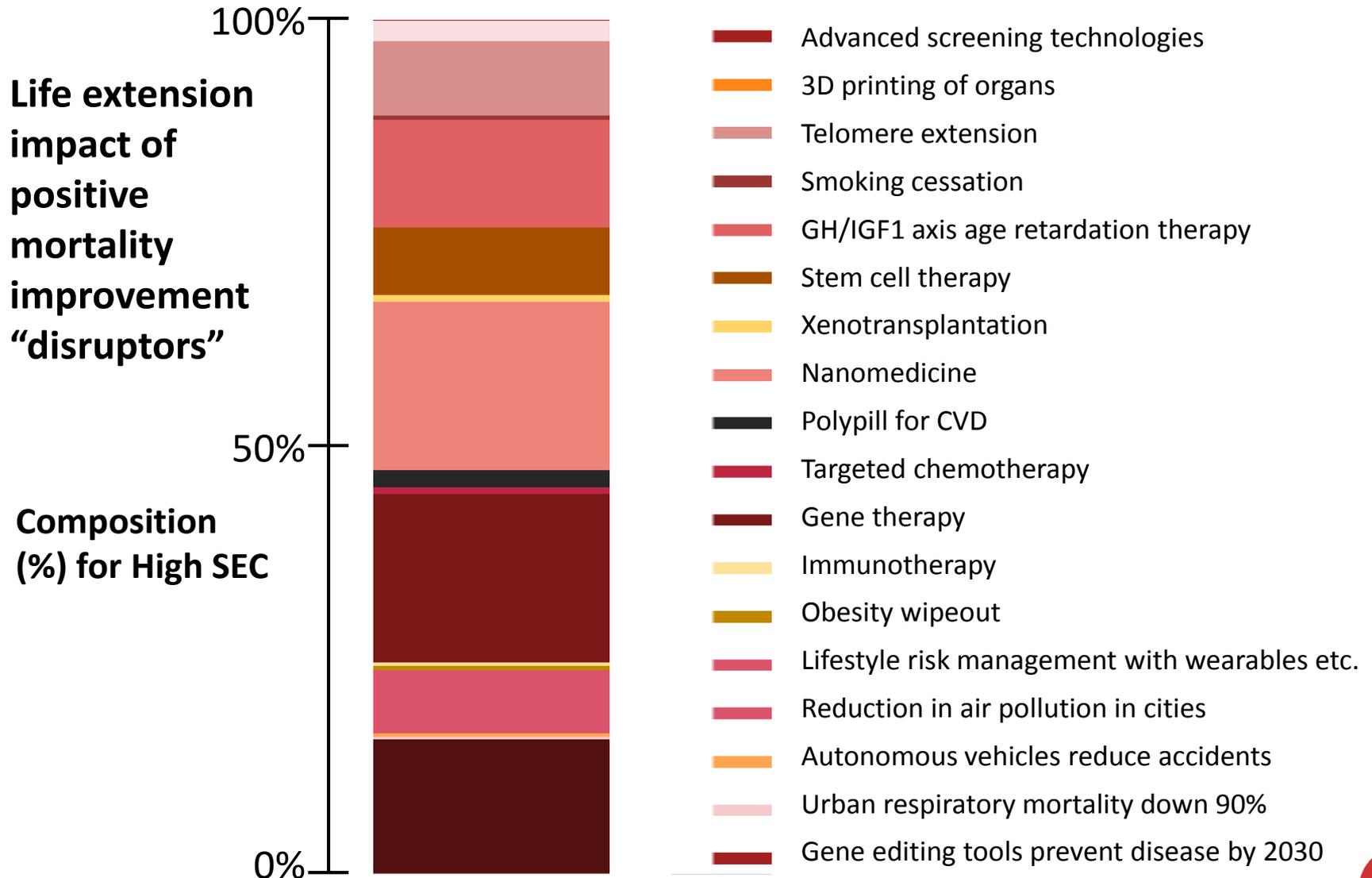
# Drivers of longevity growth



# Drivers of longevity growth



# What is the potential impact on life extension of positive “disruptors” for mortality improvements



# Mapping positive and negative mortality “disruptors”



## *Environment*

Electric/Autonomous  
Vehicles & Air Quality  
Improvements

Isolation & Depression

Public Healthcare  
Investment Crisis



## *Health Intervention*

Gene editing/manipulation

3D Organ Printing

Xenotransplantation

Regenerative Medicine

Stem Cell Therapy

Nanomedicine

Personalised Medicine

Gene Therapy Immunotherapy

Polypill

GH/IGF1 axis age retardation therapy

Genetic Screening

AI & Medical Advancement

Telemedicine & Accessibility to  
medical technologies

Nanomedicine risks

Increased costs of preventative care

Antibiotic Resistance



## *Lifestyle*

Obesity Reduction

Telomere Extension

Lifestyle Risk  
Management: Wearables

Automation driven  
obesity

Vaping / smoking  
decrease

# Disruptors will impact different Socio-Economic Classes (SECs) differently increasing inequality



## Environment



## Health Intervention



## Lifestyle

Highest Income Decile

Electric/Autonomous Vehicles & Air Quality Improvements

Gene editing/manipulation  
 3D Organ Printing  
 Xenotransplantation  
 Regenerative Medicine  
 Stem Cell Therapy  
 Nanomedicine  
 Personalised Medicine  
 Gene Therapy  
 Immunotherapy  
 Polypill  
 GH/IGF1 axis age retardation therapy  
 Genetic Screening

Obesity Reduction

Telomere Extension

Lifestyle Risk Management: Wearables

Lowest Income Decile

Isolation & Depression

AI & Medical Advancement

Telemedicine & Accessibility to medical technologies

Nanomedicine risks

Increased costs of preventative care

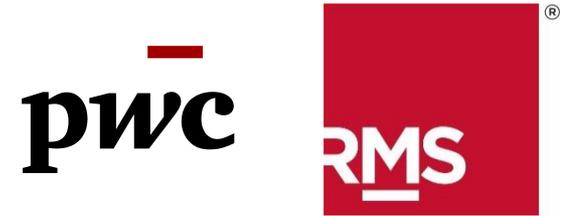
Antibiotic Resistance

Automation driven obesity

Vaping / smoking decrease

Public Healthcare Investment Crisis

# Modelling disruptive states for a population



## Exponential Technology Scenario

Define the scenario  
*(timing of rise of technologies,  
distribution etc.)*

### Disruption Drivers

Model the relevant drivers, e.g.:

*Factors increasing/  
decreasing longevity:*

*Gene Editing; Increased  
use of Wearables;  
Obesity; etc.*

### Segment Data

Segment data, e.g.:

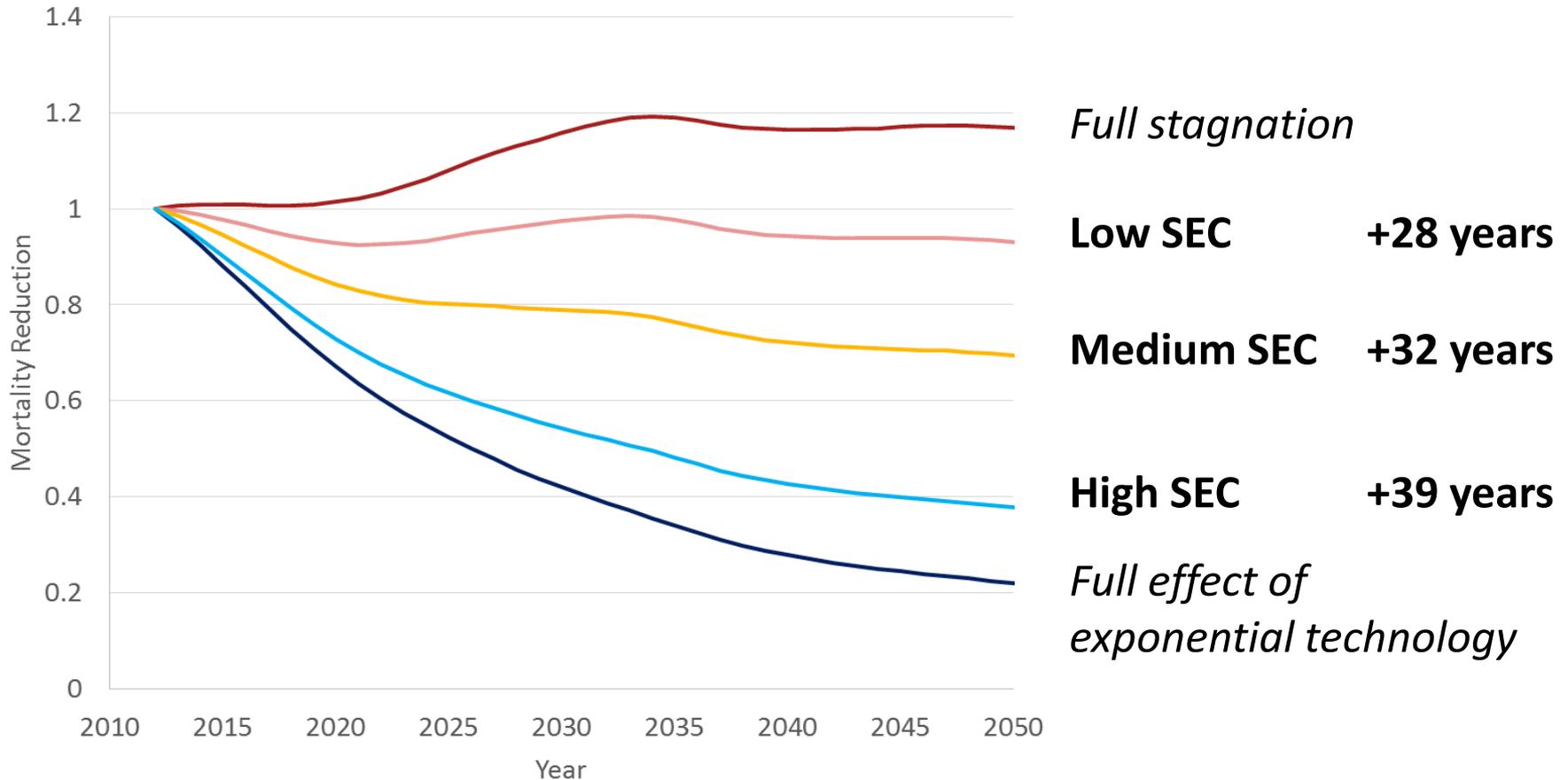
*Sex*

*Age*

*Socio-Economic Class  
(SEC)*

# Divergent mortality reductions experienced by different socio-economic classes (SECs)

## Mortality reduction for a male aged 60 in 2017



# Applied this model to measure the impact of the scenario on the liabilities of pension funds

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## *Case study 1*

	Low SEC	Medium SEC	High SEC	All
<b>% liabilities</b>	6%	28%	65%	-
<b>Impact (%)</b>	-11%	-3%	+10%	<b>+4%</b>

## *Case study 2*

	Low SEC	Medium SEC	High SEC	All
<b>% liabilities</b>	0%	6%	94%	-
<b>Impact (%)</b>	-	-3%	+10%	<b>+9%</b>

## Let us return to the original question:

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# Is there potential for significant extension of human lifespans?

- There are many scenarios that could potentially lead to a large extension to human life spans
- Technology is likely to play a central role in all of them
- The scenario we have explored is one possibility, but not the most extreme by a long way