

Cellular Rejuvenation through Transcriptional Reprogramming

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Date: Jun 20, 2023 (Tue)

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Venue: OEE1017, HSH Campus



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ABSTRACT

The idea of rejuvenation to counteract aging is as old as human civilization. For millennia, humankind has dreamt of rejuvenation therapies that could reverse aging, and tales of the fountain of youth have been recounted across continents. But, without a cellular level understanding of aging coupled with advanced intervention technologies, rejuvenation remained a fiction. Recent breakthroughs in aging research changed this situation drastically and brought us the hope that rejuvenation may become a reality. In this talk, I will describe some of the exciting progresses made in the field, and present our recent discovery of several novel transcription factors that can rejuvenate aged human fibroblast cells through transcriptional reprogramming.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Hao Li is a Professor in the Dept of Biochemistry and Biophysics & the Director of the Hillblom Center for the Biology of Aging at UCSF. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Bakar Aging Research Institute, and a Chan Zuckerberg Biohub investigator. He received his BS in Physics from Peking University and Ph.D. in theoretical physics from MIT. His current research focuses on molecular mechanisms of aging, systems biology, and human genetics.