

Old mice transfused with blood from younger mice get smarter, exercise better.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, A8, Winslow, Subscription Publication) reports that according to newly published research, when geriatric mice get blood transfused from younger mice, they get smarter, learn faster, and can exercise better.

[USA Today](#) (5/5, Weintraub) reports that “researchers from Harvard and Stanford universities published three studies...showing that substances in the blood of young mice rejuvenate the muscles and brains of older ones.” But, “whether the same process will work in people remains a mystery.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, A15, Zimmer, Subscription Publication) reports that in one study published in the journal *Science*, researchers discovered that the protein GDF11 “revived stem cells in old muscles, making old mice stronger and increasing their endurance.” A second study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* revealed that “when old mice received young blood, they had a burst of new neurons in the hippocampus, a region of the brain that is crucial for forming memories.” Another study published in the journal *Science* also found that GDF11 “spurred the growth of blood vessels and neurons” in the brains of mice.

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, A1, Kim) reports that even though “none of the studies tested for longevity, the effects of GDF11 and young blood seem to last for a few weeks in mice after injection.” But, when young mice got blood from older mice, “the creation of new cells in the young mouse slowed,” and the “old blood seemed to cause premature aging.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/4, Morin) “Science Now” blog reported that the studies’ “findings, along with those of other studies, suggest that ‘GDF11 should be regarded as a new molecular regulator of mammalian aging with potentially broad-reaching applications.’”

The [AP](#) (5/5, Ritter) points out, “Someday, if more research goes well, this may lead to a way to treat some infirmities of old age in people.”

Also covering the story are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, A8, Winslow, Subscription Publication), [Reuters](#) (5/5, Begley), the [Boston Globe](#) (5/4, A1, Johnson), [TIME](#) (5/5, Campbell), the [San Francisco Business Times](#) (5/4, Leuty, Subscription Publication) “Biotech SF” blog, [MedPage Today](#) (5/5, Gever), and the [NBC News](#) (5/5) website.