

PEGGY

21/12/04

18**Foreseeable and More Distant
Rejuvenation Therapies**

Aubrey D.N.J. de Grey

*Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge***INTRODUCTION**

Period life tables — the set of proportions of people of each age in a given population who die in a given year — have historically been a reasonable way to estimate the expected age at death of an individual of a given current age, because mortality rates at all adult ages have fallen very slowly. In this essay, I explore a scenario that is at present highly controversial, but, I feel, deserving of urgent scrutiny by gerontologists and many others: that the rather near future of humanity's progress in reducing death rates at older ages will recapitulate the decline in infant mortality seen a century ago, thereby making period life tables first invalid and then mathematically undefinable. I suggest that at some point — probably within only a few decades, and with treatments that I have discussed extensively elsewhere and will therefore only summarize here — we will make progress in restoring the health and vigour (and

Serene:
Pls check
style?

Address for correspondence: Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge,
Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EH, UK.

Email: ag24@gen.cam.ac.uk; Tel.: +44 1223 765665; Fax: +44 1223 333992