

Duke-NUS scientists discover protein that plays key role in ageing

Researchers at Duke-NUS Medical School recently discovered that a key protein may be responsible for ageing.

In a world first, scientists confirmed that interleukin-11 – or IL-11 – promotes fat accumulation in the liver and abdomen, and reduces muscle and strength – two hallmarks of human ageing.

Their study, published on July 17 in the leading scientific journal *Nature*, demonstrated in a preclinical model that a therapy countering the effects of IL-11 not only slowed ageing but also increased lifespan in mice.