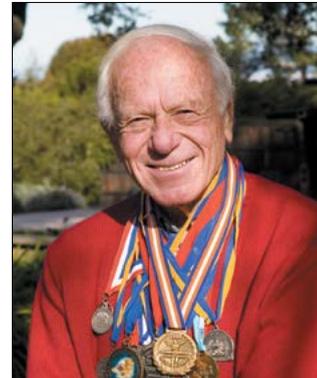


Can Google Solve Death?

By Walter M. Bortz, II, MD



Dr. Walter M. Bortz, II is one of America's most distinguished scientific experts on healthy aging and longevity. He spent his entire career at Stanford University where he holds the position of Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine. An active marathoner, he has written seven books including "Dare to Be 100" and "Next Medicine." To learn more, visit walterbortz.com or email: drwbortz@gmail.com.



Not every question that the human brain can conceive of has an answer. Not every problem that we confront has a solution.

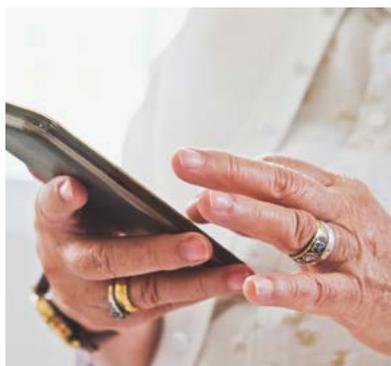
Five years ago, *TIME* Magazine ran a cover story: "Can Google Solve Death?"

Obviously the subject engendered huge response. The editor of *Newsweek* sent a reporter to interview me about my reaction to the story.

Google has committed much intellectual and financial capital to the general area of life extension. They have created an entire division entitled *Calico* that is charged with chasing down the many adjacent domains. It is heavily concentrated on the effort to find the longevity gene.

I have attended dozens of meetings and read hundreds of papers on the topic. It has immense societal implications.

Unfortunately it has attracted more than its share of hucksters



to its pursuit because it has gigantic commercial implications.

The lure of a magic elixir for longevity has seduced the naïve into wild speculations.

However, the brute truth is that immortality today remains as illusory as it was when Ponce DeLeon chased his fantasy.

Long life results not from what we are made of or what potions we consume but from what we do. A succinct summary goes: "since what we are is what we do and when we don't, we aren't."

Use it or lose it! Technology will not supplant perspiration.