Life Expectancy in 2040: What Do Clinical Experts Expect?

by

Dr Vladimir Canudas-Romo

Associate Professor

Max Planck Center Odense

University of Southern Denmark

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Time : 12:30 – 14:00 (sandwich lunch from 12:30 to 12:45; seminar begins at

12:45)

Venue : Mrs Chen Yang Foo Oi Telemedicine Centre (MTC), 2/F, William MW

Mong Block, LKS Faculty of Medicine Building, 21 Sassoon Road,

Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Abstract:

We use expert clinical and public health opinion to estimate likely changes in the prevention and treatment of important disease conditions and how they will affect future life expectancy. Focus groups were held including clinical and public health faculty with expertise in the six leading causes of death in the United States. Mortality rates and life tables for 2040 were derived by sex and age. Life expectancy at age 20 and 65 was compared to figures published by the Social Security Administration and to estimates from the Lee-Carter method. There was agreement among all three approaches that life expectancy at age 20 will increase by approximately one year per decade for females and males between now and 2040. According to the clinical experts, 70% of the improvement in life expectancy will occur in cardiovascular disease and cancer, while in the last 30 years most of the improvement has occurred in cardiovascular disease. Expert opinion suggests that most of the increase in life expectancy will be attributable to the already achieved reduction in smoking rates, especially for women.

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Bio-sketch:

Dr Canudas-Romo studied actuarial science/mathematics and population science, which triggered his interest on demographic methods and formal demography. Mortality and longevity are at the core of his research, but he enjoys collaborating in multidisciplinary settings where demography can also be embedded. During his education he has worked at



the Institute Max-Planck in Germany and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands as well as the University of California, Berkeley, and the Pennsylvania State University in the USA. Currently he holds appointments at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in the USA, and the University of Southern Denmark, in Denmark.