

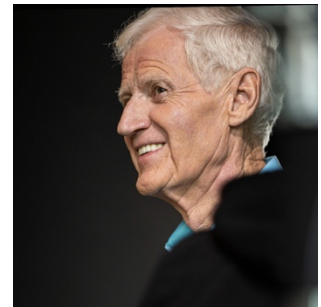
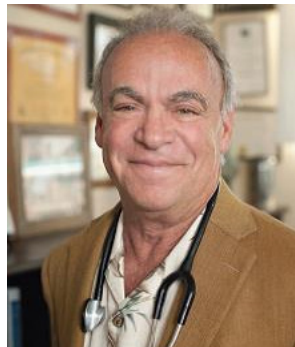


-- For Immediate Release --

The Mitonauts Take Charge

The longevity industry is booming...but still moving too slowly. Now a group of prominent senior scientists, CEOs, doctors, and VCs are fast-tracking “Elder-Led Longevity”

Atherton, CA – July 30, 2026 – Clay Rawlings, a 71-year-old prominent attorney and futurist, author of *Pardon the Disruption: The Future You Never Saw Coming*, has been writing about the emerging possibility of age reversal for decades. Now he is “patient zero” in the first human trials of a true, full-body age reversal, conducted in April and May of 2026.



He is one of the highly prominent senior citizens calling themselves the **Mitonauts**. Unlike other billionaire-funded Silicon Valley startups taking the slow approach to longevity – probably ten years away from full-body treatments – the Mitonauts are attempting age reversal this year, starting with a scientifically rigorous, high-powered new treatment called “bioreactor-grown mitochondrial transplant”. They have already started early trials on two of their members, backed by a consortium of world-renowned scientists from Stanford, UCLA, University of Kentucky, Laval University in Quebec, and leading hospital chains. This is not a small biohacking project, but an international effort. Their aim: improve the future of the human race.

The Mitonauts' sense of urgency is also important to John G. Cramer, who at 91 is the eldest of the group. As Emeritus Professor of Physics, experimentalist at CERN and Brookhaven physics labs, author of three science fiction novels, and just recently author of a book about mitochondrial transplantation and longevity, Dr. Cramer has volunteered his own body to test this technology.

"Billions of dollars have been flowing into startups, but most of them are decades away," said Cramer. "I'm 91. I cannot wait that long. We need full-body rejuvenation, and we need it now."

Odds of success

What are their odds of being the first people in history to reverse human age significantly? About 50/50 – and even if they fail to produce full age reversal, they predict 90% odds of curing one or more major illnesses like Alzheimer's, macular degeneration, or arthritis. Tom Benson, CEO of Mitrix, the vendor supporting the Mitonauts, says: "Mitochondrial transplantation is the ultimate low-hanging fruit...already proven extensively in human treatments for organ regeneration and wound healing, already expanding rapidly through the medical community. We're just using larger doses for the elderly."

"Longevity should be driven by the elderly"

The Mitonauts feel that the Longevity Movement has grown into a frothy tech bubble – too many ill-conceived claims, illogical capital allocation, and too much talk. And the most important customers, the senior citizens who need such treatments, aren't involved.

"We understand aging in ways that younger folk can't," says Cramer. "We have skin in the game. I've been doing scientific research for 50 years and the other Mitonauts have equally deep experience. That's why we're taking control of our own agenda."

A better metric

Mitonaut Ron Rothenberg MD, 81, is a recognized expert in anti-aging and has a vibrant preventive and anti-aging program for his current patients. He is a former Professor of Clinical Preventive and Family Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine and practiced and taught Emergency Medicine at Scripps Memorial Hospital, Encinitas. Dr. Rothenberg says that longevity science is struggling to measure the impact of treatments on age. As a practicing physician, his solution is surprisingly simple: "I test (almost) everything on myself first."

Rothenberg's simple solution is the core of the Mitonaut project. Other aging researchers, like the big-money X-Prize and ARPA-H programs, attempt to prove success by extending the lifespans of mice or creating aging biomarkers. But the Mitonauts argue the best measure of age reversal is to use their own bodies as "test pilots."

Key Takeaways

- *The Mitonauts are a non-profit group of prominent senior citizens – scientists, doctors, VCs, and CEOs – who are testing new longevity technologies on themselves.*
- *They point out that the elderly have the most immediate medical need for longevity treatments, so they should be pushing harder for advancements in the field.*
- *They have settled on mitochondrial transportation as the only near-term treatment, partnering with Mitrix Bio on first full-body human trials this year.*
- *They point out that longevity treatments also have enormous benefit for traditional medicine and will help the millions of young people with chronic diseases. The Mitonauts consider themselves "test pilots" for society.*

Benson says: “These are not drug trials. These are medical treatments for individuals. We think these elderly volunteers – who are savvy and know their own bodies – are the perfect source of data to combine with blood chemistry and physiological testing.”

Helping children

“This work is not only about reversing aging for people our age,” Rawlings said. “There are younger people with chronic conditions, including children with devastating terminal illnesses, who are likely to benefit from these advances. We are honored to serve as early test pilots for something that could eventually help vastly more people than ourselves.” Initial tests were conducted by a team of physicians and scientists in Dallas, Texas, working at the Mitochondrial Transplantation Institute clinic there, established under recent Right to Try 2.0 legislation.

What’s next?

The Mitonauts will be having a series of webinars to discuss “Elder-Led Longevity.” In addition to their current mitochondrial transplant treatment, they are gathering other technologies, including epigenetic reprogramming, senescent cell clearance, and Klotho gene therapy. Finally, they will be visiting state and federal politicians to advocate for seniors having greater control of their own healthcare decisions.

Want to join?

The Mitonauts are open to new members: 55+ years old or with a chronic disabling disease, and interested in participating.

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