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2	Aging markers in human urine:
3	A comprehensive, non-targeted LC-MS study
5	A comprehensive, non-targeted Lo-mo study
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25	
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27	

28 Summary

29 Metabolites in human biofluids document individual physiological status. We 30 conducted comprehensive, non-targeted, non-invasive metabolomic analysis of urine 31 from 27 healthy human subjects, comprising 13 youths (30±3 yr) and 14 seniors 32 (76±4 yr). Quantitative analysis of 99 metabolites revealed 55 that were linked to 33 aging, displaying significant differences in abundance between the two groups. 34 These include 13 standard amino acids, 5 methylated, 4 acetylated, and 9 other 35 amino acids, 6 nucleosides, nucleobases, and derivatives, 4 sugar derivatives, 5 36 sugar phosphates, 4 carnitines, 2 hydroxybutyrates, 1 choline, and 1 ethanolamine 37 derivative, and glutathione disulfide. Abundances of 53 compounds decreased, while 38 2 increased in elderly people. Many age-linked markers were highly correlated; 42 of 39 55 compounds, showed Pearson's correlation coefficients larger than 0.70. As 40 metabolite profiles of urine and blood are guite different, age-related information 41 in urine components offer yet more valuable insights into aging mechanisms of 42 endocrine system and related organ systems.

44 Introduction

45 Elderly people are acutely aware of the progressive aging of different body 46 parts, but quantifying and characterizing physiological aging is less intuitive. 47 Nonetheless, assessment of aging and determination of aging type by analyzing 48 metabolites in biofluids, such as blood and urine, may help us to understand broadly-49 featured aging of the human body (Kampmann et al., 1974) (Ames, 1989) (Short et 50 al., 2005) (Slupsky et al., 2007) (Lawton et al., 2008) (Mishur and Rea, 2012) (Yu et 51 al., 2012) (Menni et al., 2013) (Gonzalez-Covarrubias et al., 2013) (Auro et al., 2014) 52 (Chaleckis et al., 2016) (Hertel et al., 2016) (Jove et al., 2016) (Rist et al., 2017) 53 (Chak et al., 2019). Age-dependent changes of metabolite abundances may be 54 valuable to determine the molecular causes of impaired organ functions. Technology 55 that enables simple and rapid measurement of urinary metabolites, which can be 56 collected non-invasively, has certain advantages over methods using blood. Urinary 57 metabolites are promising biological samples for monitoring health parameters if the 58 metabolic processes resulting in production of those metabolites can be fully 59 understood. To date, few comprehensive approaches to investigate human urinary 60 metabolites in aging have been reported (Thevenot et al., 2015) (Hertel et al., 2016) 61 (Rist et al., 2017). Urination is a primary route by which the body eliminates water-62 soluble waste products. Accordingly, urine has been broadly utilized for diagnosis of 63 renal dysfunction in diverse kidney diseases (Han et al., 2002) (Eknoyan et al., 2003) 64 (Mishra et al., 2005) (Parikh et al., 2006) (Pisitkun et al., 2006) (Vaidya et al., 2008). 65 Nonetheless, because urinary metabolites originate in all organ systems, they may 66 be useful to examine human aging. In this study, we analyzed urinary metabolites

- 67 in elderly and young subjects, using comprehensive metabolomics to identify
- 68 metabolites linked to aging. Striking correlations of many urine metabolites with
- 69 age were found.

71 **Results**

72 Collection of urine samples

73	Samples of morning urine, immediately after awaking, were collected
74	from healthy volunteer subjects (elderly, 75.8±3.9 yr, and young, 30.6±3.2 yr;
75	Supplementary Table s1 shows gender and BMI) in Onna Village, Okinawa,
76	Japan. Precautions taken for sample collection are described in the Materials
77	and Methods. Basic data analytical procedures were similar to those previously
78	described (Chaleckis et al., 2016) (Teruya et al., 2019) (Kameda et al., 2020).
79	
80	99 urine metabolites identified
81	Ninety-nine urinary metabolites, about half of which are amino acids and
82	their derivatives, were identified and quantified using liquid chromatography – mass
83	spectrometry (LC – MS) and MZmine 2 (Pluskal et al., 2010a) (Teruya et al., 2019)
84	(Supplemental Table s2). These compounds were subdivided into 12 groups,
85	containing 17 standard amino acids, 12 methylated amino acids, 6 acetylated amino
86	acids and 15 other amino acids, 12 nucleosides, nucleobases, and derivatives, 4 sugar
87	derivatives, 6 sugar phosphates, 3 vitamins and coenzymes (pantothenate, 4-
88	aminobenzoate, nicotinamide), 4 choline and ethanolamine derivatives, 8 carnitines,
89	11 organic acids, and 1 antioxidant (oxidized form of glutathione, GSSG). Small amino
90	acids, such as glycine and alanine, were not detected in our analysis due to the
91	mass cutoff (100 m/z) used. Levels of individual compounds, categorized by
92	abundance as H (high, >10 ⁸), M (medium, $10^7 \sim 10^8$) or L (low, <10 ⁷), were estimated
93	based upon mass spectroscopic peak area (Chaleckis et al., 2014) (Chaleckis et al.,

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94	2016). Some compounds varied widely from one individual to the next and are
95	denoted as H-L, H-M or M-L. According to abundance, there were 7 H, 19 H-M, 7 H-
96	L, 5 M, 45 M-L and 16 L compounds. Twenty-six urinary metabolites were abundant
97	(H or H-M), the great majority of which were amino acids and their derivatives, such
98	as the methylated amino acids, betaine and dimethyl-arginine, but they also
99	included nucleosides, such as pseudouridine and N-methyl-guanosine. In blood,
100	sugar phosphates and methylated amino acids were enriched in red blood cells
101	(Chaleckis et al., 2014) (Chaleckis et al., 2016). In urine, sugar phosphates are age-
102	related, except for glucose-6-phosphate. We show below that about half of all
103	urinary metabolites are age-related.
104	

105 Most urinary age markers decreased with age

106 Of 99 urinary metabolites assayed in 27 subjects, 55 showed statistically significant 107 differences between young and elderly (p-values, 0.00003) (Fig. 1). Thus,108 about half of these compounds are affected by aging, with most becoming less 109 abundant in elderly subjects. Two exceptions, myo-inositol and glutathione disulfide 110 (GSSG), were more abundant in elderly samples. In other words, ~50% of all urinary 111 metabolites decline in old age. Five of 55 metabolites, creatinine, dimethyl 112 guanosine, decanoyl-carnitine, N-acetyl-aspartate, and tryptophan, were previously 113 reported as urinary age markers (Kampmann et al., 1974) (Slupsky et al., 2007) 114 (Thevenot et al., 2015) (Rist et al., 2017). myo-Inositol and GSSG increased 1.34-115 and 6.96-fold, respectively (Table 1). The increase of GSSG was striking, though its 116 abundance in urine was rather low. Many metabolites diminished to less than half in

117	urine of elderly subjects [fructose-1,6-diphosphate (0.14), carnosine (0.34),
118	glycerophosphate (0.32), 2- and 3-hydroxybutyrate (0.33, 0.27, respectively), and
119	octanoryl-carnitine (0.40)].
120	
121	Highly correlated age-linked urinary metabolites
122	To understand relationships among urine metabolites, Pearson's correlation
123	coefficients were calculated from abundance data for all 55 age-linked urinary
124	metabolites of all 27 subjects (Methods section). The highest correlation, 0.92, was
125	obtained for isoleucine – leucine and N-methyl guanosine – dimethyl guanosine (Fig.
126	2A). This is probably due to their similar chemical structures and proximity in
127	biochemical pathways (see below and KEGG, https://www.genome.jp/kegg/).
128	However, correlation values 0.91 obtained for glycerol-phosphate – 3-
129	hydroxybutyrate, pseudouridine – 2-hydroxybutyrate, and pseudouridine – isoleucine
130	clearly have a different explanation. Fifteen urinary metabolites having correlation
131	values >0.85 formed a network (Fig. 2B). The high correlation between
132	pseudouridine and isoleucine seems to be a key connection between two groups of
133	metabolites. Additionally, the connections of creatinine to pseudouridine and 3-
134	hydroxybutyrate to glutamine appeared to be required for further correlation (see
135	below). In the case of a creatinine-related network, 15 metabolites have correlation
136	coefficients from 0.71~0.84 (Fig. 2C). Creatinine, a known waste product from
137	muscle (Heymsfield et al., 1983) (Baxmann et al., 2008), is correlated with many
138	metabolites. It even shows a negative correlation with GSSG (Fig. 2D).
139	Pairwise correlation analyses revealed 21 pairs of compounds with

140	correlation coefficients >0.85 (Fig. 2A). These show a network consisting of two
141	groups, one centered around pseudouridine and the other around isoleucine (Fig.
142	2B). This suggests that compounds within each of these groups may be
143	metabolically linked.
144	When urinary compounds with correlation coefficients larger than 0.7 were
145	selected, the majority of age-linked metabolites formed a large network consisting of
146	42 metabolites (Supplemental Fig. S1). Since all age-linked metabolites displayed
147	p-values < 0.05 in dot plot profiling, the fact that the great majority (42/55 = 76%)
148	form such a large age-linked correlation network is quite impressive.
149	
150	Some age-linked metabolites were not highly correlated
151	On the other hand, 13 compounds, though they were age-related, showed
152	only weak correlations (<0.7) with the other 42 age-linked urinary metabolites
153	(Supplemental Fig. S1). Aspartate, a standard amino acid having an acidic side
154	chain, showed maximal, but inverse correlation with GSSG (-0.67). Aspartate has a
155	correlation coefficient of 0.65 with N-acetyl aspartate, indicating that structural
156	similarity might partly explain the weak correlation. S-adenosyl-homocysteine did not
157	show correlation values higher than 0.41 (N-methyl-adenosine). Although the
158	correlation is rather low, the two compounds exhibit structural similarity. Similarly,
159	lysine, dimethyl-lysine, trimethyl-lysine, and N6-acetyl-lysine did not show the
160	correlation coefficients higher than 0.5 among them. These metabolites diminish
161	significantly in urine of elderly people. Fructose-1,6-diphosphate showed a maximal
162	correlation value (0.58) with pentose-phosphate and gluconate, all carbohydrates,

163 but correlations were low (Supplemental Fig. S2). Whether these metabolites 164 decline in elderly subjects as a consequence of aging or as a cause of it, remains to 165 be investigated. 166 167 Heatmap analysis of urinary metabolites linked to aging 168 We then employed a heatmap to visualize the quantitative profile of age-169 linked urinary metabolites in individual subjects (Fig. 3). Since most of these 170 metabolites declined in the elderly, matrix color represents metabolite abundance for 171 individual subjects (t-score<40 white, low; 40~50 thin red, slight low; 50~60 172 moderate red, slight high; >60 deep red, high). Elderly samples to the left were 173 mostly white or pale red (lower level), except for myo-inositol and GSSG, which were 174 moderate or deep red (higher level). Thus, a heatmap of urinary metabolites 175 graphically illustrates the degree of urinary metabolite aging for individual subjects, 176 so that subjects may be compared one with another. Two subjects (elderly 11, 81F 177 and young 15, 33M) showed patterns remarkably like those of the opposite age 178 group. 179

180 Principal component analysis of age-linked metabolites

181 Implications of urinary compounds in aging should also be cross examined 182 using results of blood compound analyses. However, as these compounds decrease 183 in urine of elderly people, the results are consistent with actual aging. Some urinary 184 metabolites may be implicated in sustaining health and slowing aging. To integrate 185 guantitative metabolite abundance data from individual subjects, abundances of

186	these 55 age-related metabolites were subjected to principal component analysis
187	(PCA) (Nakamura et al., 1988) (Kameda et al., 2020). Subjects were separated into
188	2 groups (red for elderly and blue for young subjects) represented by negative and
189	positive values of principal component (PC) 1, respectively (Fig. 4A). One elderly
190	subject 11 (81F) was in the middle of the young group and one young subject 15
191	(33M) was in the group of elderly subjects in the PCA plot (Fig. 4A). These are
192	consistent with results plotted in the heatmap (Fig. 3). The PC1 score and
193	chronological age of the subject showed a high correlation with r=0.80. (Fig. 4B).
194	

195 Negative correlation between GSSG and age-linked metabolites

196 GSSG showed significant negative correlations with some age-linked 197 metabolites (N-acetyl aspartate, N-methyl guanosine, dimethyl guanosine, 198 pseudouridine, quinolinic acid, creatinine, N-methyl-histidine, etc.) (Fig. 5A). While 199 the oxidized disulfide form was detected in elderly samples, but the reduced form 200 was not detected in young or elderly samples. Thus only the inactive form of 201 glutathione was detected in elderly samples. A possible interpretation is that the 202 active reduced form glutathione (GSH) may be very reactive and short-lived as a 203 metabolite (see Discussion). The abundance of GSSG in 27 subjects is shown 204 together with N-acetyl aspartate, N-methyl guanosine, dimethyl guanosine, 205 pseudouridine, and chronological age of subject (Fig. 5B-F). GSSG was low to 206 undetectable in 5 young subjects, but accumulated in the elderly samples (Fig. 5F). 207 GSSG showed different degrees of abundance in different subjects, and 208 was virtually absent in young subjects, but in elderly subjects, its abundance

209	increased and paralleled the abundance of creatinine in young subjects. Thus GSSG
210	abundance was inversely related to aging. The reason for this increase of GSSG in
211	elderly urine is probably due to the absence or declining effectiveness of a
212	mechanism to metabolize and reprocess GSSG by the elderly. Such a reductive
213	mechanism does exist in young subjects; however, the redox environment regarding
214	glutathione appears to be altered during aging. Inability to reduce oxidized GSSG
215	may accelerate aging.

217 Discussion

218	We initially investigated metabolomics of a simple model eukaryote, fission
219	yeast (Schizosaccharomyces pombe) using yeast genetic technology to identify and
220	determine metabolite profiles in wild type and mutant cell extracts (Pluskal et al.,
221	2010b) (Pluskal et al., 2016) (Pluskal and Yanagida, 2016a) (Pluskal and Yanagida,
222	2016b). By adapting the software MZmine 2 for metabolite identification (Pluskal et
223	al., 2010a) (Pluskal et al., 2012), we found that metabolomics of fission yeast and
224	humans are surprisingly similar in regard to metabolite composition (Chaleckis et al.,
225	2014). Metabolites detected in fission yeast and human whole blood were 75%
226	identical. Given this unexpected similarity, we adapted our techniques to human
227	blood metabolites to better understand health, disease, and longevity (Chaleckis et
228	al., 2014) (Chaleckis et al., 2016) (Teruya et al., 2019) (Kameda et al., 2020).
229	
230	Distinction of aging information between blood and urine.
231	Urinary metabolites offer a non-invasive means of obtaining aging
232	information. The present results indicate that urinary aging information may be
233	distinct from that obtainable from blood. Blood metabolites derived from plasma and
234	red blood cells of elderly subjects reflect a decrease in antioxidant production and
235	muscle activity or increasing inefficiency of nitrogen metabolism (Chaleckis et al.,
236	2016). Aging information obtained from urine will be useful, as human aging is
237	exceedingly complex. In the present study, we identified 55 human urinary aging

238 markers using non-targeted, comprehensive LC-MS. Since urine contains 99

200 markers using non targeted, comprehensive EC we. Onloc unite contains of

239 compounds, many urinary metabolites such as vitamins (pantothenate and

240 nicotinamide) and organic acids (citrate, malate) neither significantly decreased nor 241 increased so that about a half of urinary metabolites are not age markers. In aged 242 subjects, levels of protein, nucleic acid and lipid synthesis, modification, and turnover 243 may decrease due to reduced physical activity (Hughes et al., 2002) (Pollack et al., 244 2002) (Maynard et al., 2015), resulting in declining metabolite abundances. 245 Metabolite data may be considered as an overview of the physiological state of all 246 tissues and organs. Hence these 55 metabolites constitute a panorama of human 247 aging as seen through urine composition. Alternatively, these may not represent 248 actual human aging, but may represent voluntary lifestyle changes that may be 249 reversible regardless of actual age. 250 251 Myoinositol, GSSG and pseudouridine. 252 Two exceptional urinary age metabolites, myo-inositol and presumably 253 inactive, oxidized GSSG increased in elderly samples (1.34- and 6.96-fold, 254 respectively). Myo-inositol becomes an important second messenger if 255 phosphorylated, causing changes in [Ca²⁺] (Berridge, 1993) (Berridge, 2016). In the 256 correlation analysis, myo-inositol was not highly correlated with any other metabolite. 257 Glycerophosphocholine and N-methyl-adenosine showed weak, negative 258 correlations with myo-inositol (-0.47 and -0.43, respectively, Supplemental Fig. S2). 259 Implications of the myo-inositol increase in elderly urine remain unclear. GSSG that 260 we detected was the inactive, oxidized form. It increased in elderly urine. The active 261 SH form of glutathione seems to be very unstable and it is difficult to prevent its 262 degradation during preparation of urine as well as blood samples (Chaleckis et al.,

263 2016, the present study). The active SH form was rapidly oxidized to an inactive 264 disulfide form, which accumulated in elderly subjects, whereas in young subjects the 265 disulfide form was hardly formed or undetected possibly due to rapid decay in the 266 young body or sample. Consistently, reduced GSSG was undetectable in urine of the 267 five young subjects Fig. 2D and Fig. 5B-F). The abundance of GSSG was inversely 268 related to those of pseudouridine, creatinine, and 2-hydroxybutyrate, which were 269 most abundant in young subjects. Thus GSSG in urine appears to be appropriate as 270 an age marker in urine of elderly subjects. In contrast, the high abundance of 271 pseudouridine seems to be emblematic of youth. 272 273 Highly correlated urine metabolites. 274 Fifteen metabolites are highly correlated (correlation coefficients >0.85, 275 Fig. 2A, B). They consisted of two subgroups. One comprised nucleosides 276 pseudouridine, dimethyl guanosine, N-methyl guanosine and 2- or 3-hydroxybutyrate 277 and the other group contained branched-chain amino acids and aromatic amino 278 acids. Correlation within each group was high, but was not always high between the 279 two subgroups (0.65 for pseudouridine and methionine, and 0.56 for glycerol 280 phosphate and isoleucine; Supplemental Fig. S2). It remains to be determined what 281 kind of functional distinctions exist between these two subgroups of metabolites in 282 health and disease. In addition, a number of compounds showing correlation 283 coefficients >0.70 are structurally only remotely related. Therefore, the high correlations 284 of urinary compounds cannot all be easily explained. While isoleucine, leucine, and 285 valine contain hydrophobic side chains, glutamine, having a hydrophilic sidechain,

showed correlation coefficients of 0.88-0.89 with isoleucine. Pseudouridine was highly
correlated with 10 other compounds (>0.82), although we are unable to offer an
explanation for this at present. The high correlation (0.83) between 2-hydroxybutyrate
and 3-hydroxybutyrate may be explained by their structural relatedness, but their
correlations in the range of 0.6-0.82 with 10 other compounds are difficult to explain.

291

292 Thirteen metabolites linked by low correlation.

293 Thirteen metabolites linked by low correlation coefficients are shown in 294 Supplemental Fig. S2. They include myo-inositol, two regular amino acids 295 (aspartate and lysine), methylated or acetylated amino acids, etc. Creatinine, an 296 abundant aging marker (Kampmann et al., 1974) and an amino acid waste product in 297 muscle (or other tissues) showed moderate correlations (Fig. 2C). Its urinary content 298 decreased to 43% in elderly samples (**Table 1**). More than half (31) of the declining age 299 markers in urine were amino acids (standard, methylated, acetylated, and other), and 6 300 more are nucleosides, nucleobases, and their derivatives. Protein degradation and 301 nucleic acid turnover seem to cause the change in elderly urine. Pseudouridine is a 302 tRNA component (Charette and Gray, 2000), perhaps important in catabolism of 303 nucleosides and other compounds, as it is highly correlated with purine nucleosides 304 (adenosine, guanosine, and inosine), muscle amino acids (isoleucine, creatinine), and 305 organic acids (hydroxybutyrates, glycerol-phosphate). Pseudouridine is also abundant 306 in blood, but the amount in urine is 15-fold higher. Pseudouridine showed very high 307 correlation coefficients with 10 compounds (Fig. 2A, B) and its high abundance in urine 308 may provide a convenient youth marker.

309

310 An effective overview on aging by heatmap.

311	We showed that heatmap analysis of age-linked metabolites provides an
312	effective overview of aging patterns using urinary metabolite profiles of individual
313	subjects. Heatmap patterns are convenient for visualizing differences between young
314	and aged subjects and also individual variations within and between groups (Fig. 3).
315	PCA was useful to categorize a group of subjects because of its capacity to integrate a
316	large collection of data about various metabolites. Elderly and young subjects were
317	clearly separated into two populations, with two exceptions (Fig. 4). Exceptional
318	individuals are of considerable interest, regarding their persistent youth or premature
319	aging, if these truly represent metabolic features. Their individuality may be worthy of
320	further investigation. Among 55 age-related urinary markers, 13 compounds did not
321	show correlations >0.7 (Supplemental Fig. S1). We determined the correlations of
322	these 13 compounds with all metabolites. Age-related metabolites such as myo-inositol,
323	S-adenosyl-homocysteine, N-methyl-adenosine, lysine, trimethyl-lysine, fructose-1,6-
324	diphosphate, and glycerophosphocholine are only weakly correlated (~0.6)
325	(Supplemental Fig. S2). Thus, high correlation is not necessarily required of age-
326	related compounds. These metabolites that are only remotely correlated are of interest
327	to better understand the metabolic breadth of human aging.
328	

Ratio

329 **Table 1.** List of 55 aging markers.

330

Category /Compound Peak abundance

<i>Category</i> /Compound	Peak	Ratio
	abundance	(elderly/young)
Nucleosides, nucleobases, and derivatives (6)		
Dimethyl-guanosine	H-M	0.63
N-Methyl-adenosine	H-M	0.56
Pseudouridine	H-M	0.45
N-Methyl-guanosine	M	0.51
Adenosine	M-L	0.61
Hypoxanthine	M-L	0.50
пуроханиние	IVI-L	0.50
Sugar derivatives (4)		
Gluconate	H-M	0.67
N-Acetyl-glucosamine	H-M	0.70
1,5-Anhydroglucitol	M-L	0.45
myo-Inositol	M-L	1.34
Sugar phosphates (5)		
Glycerol-phosphate	H-L	0.32
Fructose-1,6-diphosphate	L	0.14
Fructose-6-phosphate	L	0.33
Pentose-phosphate	L	0.65
Phosphoglycerate	L	0.46
Choline and ethanolamine derivatives (2)		0.50
Glycerophosphocholine	M-L	0.50
Glycerophosphoethanolamine	L	0.44
Carnitines (4)		
(iso)Butyryl-carnitine	H-M	0.61
(iso)Valeryl-carnitine	H-L	0.66
Decanoyl-carnitine	M-L	0.49
Octanoyl-carnitine	M-L	0.40
		00
Organic acids (2)		
2-Hydroxybutyrate	M-L	0.33
3-Hydroxybutyrate	M-L	0.27
Antioxidant (1)		
Glutathione disulfide	L	6.96
Glutatilione disultue	L	0.90
Standard amino acids (13)		
Histidine	H-M	0.68
Phenylalanine	H-M	0.53
Tryptophan	H-M	0.49
Asparagine	M-L	0.73
Glutamine	M-L	0.46
Leucine	M-L	0.42
Lysine	M-L	0.50
Methionine	M-L	0.74
Serine	M-L	0.54
Threonine	M-L	0.71
Aspartate	L	0.62
Isoleucine	L	0.38
Valine	L	0.30
vanie	-	0.00
Methylated amino acids (5)		
Dimethyl-arginine	н	0.69
N-Methyl-histidine	н	0.64
Trimethyl-lysine	н	0.74
Dimethyl-lysine	H-M	0.52
Butyro-betaine	M-L	0.76

331	Table 1. List of 55 aging markers.	(continued)
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	,	,
Category / Compound	Peak abundance	Ratio (elderly/young)
Acetylated amino acids (4)		
N-Acetyl-arginine	H-M	0.78
N2-Acetyl-lysine	М	0.62
N6-Acetyl-lysine	М	0.51
N-Acetyl-aspartate	M-L	0.50
Other amino acids (9)		
Creatinine	Н	0.43
Indoxyl-sulfate	Н	0.56
4-Guanidinobutanoate	H-M	0.46
Taurine	H-M	0.52
Carnosine	M-L	0.34
Keto(iso)leucine	M-L	0.36
Kynurenine	M-L	0.45
Quinolinic acid	M-L	0.44
S-Adenosyl-homocysteine	L	0.75

332

The list of 55 aging-linked compounds that showed a significant difference in abundance between young and elderly people. The abundance of compounds (peak area) displayed: H, high peak areas [>10⁸ AU (arbitrary unit)]; M, medium peak areas (10⁸~10⁷ AU); L, low peak areas (<10⁷ AU). The peak ratio was calculated using the median of peak abundance in elderly and young people, respectively.

339 Materials and Methods

340 Participants and sample collection

14 elderly (69~81 yr) and 13 young (25~38 yr) healthy people participated as

- 342 subjects in this study (**Supplemental Table S1**). Measurements of metabolites in
- 343 first morning urine are more consistent than random daytime sampling to monitor
- 344 metabolites. Intra-individual coefficients of variation in first morning urine and 24-
- h collected urine are reportedly similar (Witte et al., 2009).
- 346 After collection, urine samples were brought to the laboratory within 3 hr 0.2
- mL urine were immediately quenched in 1.8 mL of 55% methanol at -40°C. This
- 348 quenching step stabilizes metabolites and maximizes reproducibility of metabolomic
- data. Two internal standards (10 nmol of HEPES and PIPES) were added to each
- 350 sample. After brief vortexing, samples were transferred to Amicon Ultra 10-kDa cut-
- 351 off filters (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA) to remove proteins and cellular debris. After
- 352 sample concentration by vacuum evaporation, each sample was re-suspended in 40
- ³⁵³ μL of 50% acetonitrile, and 1 μL was used for each injection into the LC-MS system,
- as described (Chaleckis et al., 2016) (Kameda et al., 2020).
- 355

356 **Ethics statement**

- Written, informed consent was obtained from all donors, in accordance with the
 Declaration of Helsinki. All experiments were performed in compliance with relevant
 Japanese laws and institutional guidelines. All protocols were approved by the
 Human Subjects Research Review Committee of the Okinawa Institute of Science
 and Technology Graduate University (OIST).
- 362

363 Chemicals and reagents

364 Standards for metabolite identification were purchased from commercial sources as
365 described previously (Pluskal et al., 2010b) (Chaleckis et al., 2014) (Chaleckis et al.,
366 2016) (Teruya et al., 2019).

367

368 LC-MS analysis and data processing

369 Urinary metabolites were analyzed using an Ultimate 3000 DGP-3600RS HPLC

370 system (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) coupled to an LTQ Orbitrap

371 mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), as described

372 (Chaleckis et al., 2016) (Kameda et al., 2020). Briefly, LC separation was performed

373 on a ZIC-pHILIC column (Merck SeQuant, Umea, Sweden; 150 mm x 2.1 mm, 5 µm

particle size). Acetonitrile (A) and 10 mM ammonium carbonate buffer, pH 9.3 (B)

were used as the mobile phase, with a linear gradient elution from 80-20% A over 30

376 min, at a flow rate of 100 μ L mL⁻¹. The mass spectrometer was operated in full-scan

377 mode with a 100-1000 m/z scan rate and automatic data-dependent MS/MS

378 fragmentation scans. For each metabolite, we chose a singly charged, [M+H]+ or [M-

379 H]-, peak (Supplemental Table S3). Peak detection and identification of metabolites

380 were performed using MZmine 2 software (Pluskal et al., 2010a). Detailed data

analytical procedures and parameters have been described previously (Teruya et al.,

382 2019).

383

384 Peak identification and characteristics

385 We analyzed 99 urine metabolites that were confirmed using standards or MS/MS

386	analysis (Pluskal et al., 2010b) (Chaleckis et al., 2014) (Chaleckis et al., 2016)
387	(Teruya et al., 2019). Metabolites were classified into 3 groups (H, M, and L),
388	according to their peak areas. H denotes compounds with high peak areas (>10 ⁸
389	AU), M with medium peak areas ($10^7 \sim 10^8$ AU) and L with low peak areas (< 10^7 AU)
390	(Supplemental Table S2).
391	
392	Statistical analysis
393	A non-parametric Mann–Whitney test was used to compare young and elderly
394	subjects. Statistical significance was established at p<0.05. Data were exported into
395	a spreadsheet and dot plots were drawn using R statistical software (http://www.r-
396	project.org). Correlation coefficients were determined for identification of metabolic
397	networks among compounds. Principal component analysis (PCA) was conducted
398	using SIMCA-P+ software (Umetrics Inc., Umea, Sweden). Pearson's correlation
399	coefficients among metabolites were calculated using Microsoft Excel.
400	
401	Data availability
402	Raw LC-MS data in mzML format are accessible via the MetaboLights repository
403	(URL: http://www.ebi.ac.uk/metabolights). Data for the 27 volunteers are available
404	under accession number MTBLS1407.
405	
406	
407	Acknowledgments

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- 412
- 413
- 414 **Declaration of Interests**
- 415 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.
- 416

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544

546 Figure Legends

- 547 **Figure 1.** Dot plots of 55 compounds that showed significant differences in
- abundance between elderly and young people. Distributions of 11 subgroups of 55
- 549 metabolites in urine samples from 27 individuals. Pale red and azure dots represent
- ⁵⁵⁰ elderly and young subjects, respectively. Bars represent medians in each group. The
- ratio of median value between elderly and young is shown in **Table 1**. P-values were
- 552 obtained using the non-parametric Mann Whitney U test. Fifty-three of 55
- 553 compounds were more abundant in young subjects, while two (myo-inositol and
- 554 GSSG) were more abundant among the elderly.

555

556 **Figure 2.** Correlation network among age-linked compounds. (A) Values indicate

557 correlation coefficients between paired compounds. Highly correlated pairs of aging

558 markers (r>0.85) are indicated with red circles. The most highly correlated pairs are

indicated by green (0.92) and red arrows (0.91). (B) Interrelated compounds form a

network. Correlations (r>0.90) are highlighted in yellow. (C) Fifteen metabolites with

the highest correlation with creatinine are listed. (D) Scatter plot of the peak

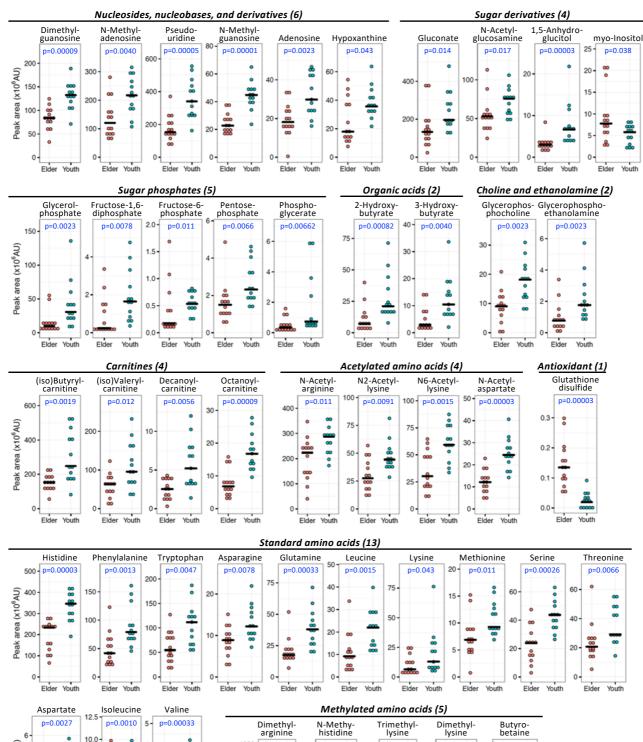
abundance (x10⁶ AU) between creatinine and GSSG. GSSG was negatively

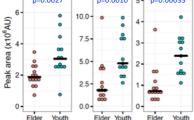
563 correlated with creatinine.

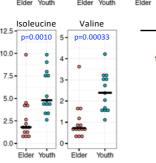
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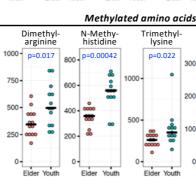
Figure 3. Heatmap representing urinary metabolic profiles of elderly and young
subjects. Standardized data for each metabolite are shown for 27 subjects using a
color matrix representing relative abundance data of 55 urinary aging markers.
Numerical values indicate the t-score, a kind of standardized score. The mean and

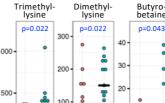
- 569 standard deviation are 50 and 10, respectively. Color intensity of the cells reflects the
- 570 t-score, indicating levels higher than average.
- 571
- 572 **Figure 4.** PCA of 55 aging markers. (A) Thirteen young and 14 elderly subjects are
- 573 shown in blue and red, respectively, with their subject numbers (corresponding to
- 574 **Fig. 3**). PC2 comprised metabolites that were not strongly correlated
- 575 (glycerophosphocholine, S-adenosyl-homocysteine, etc.), but that were isolated from
- a strong correlation network. (B) PC1 score of each subject (X-axis) is plotted versus
- 577 subject age (Y-axis). The correlation coefficient is shown in the box.
- 578
- 579 **Figure 5.** Scatter plots between GSSG and correlated compounds or age.
- 580 (A) Ten metabolites with the highest correlations with GSSG are listed. Scatter plot of
- 581 the peak abundance (x10⁶ AU) between GSSG and N-acetyl aspartate (B), N-methyl
- 582 guanosine (C), dimethyl guanosine (D), pseudouridine (E), and the age of the
- 583 subject (F).
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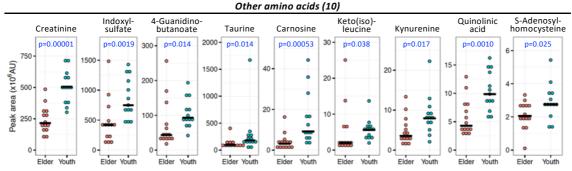
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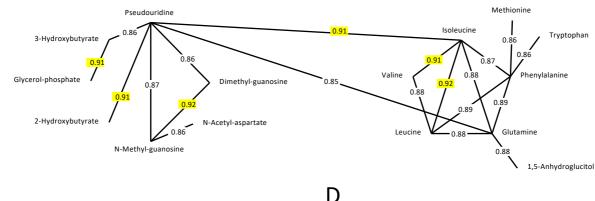
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Α		0 60 140	0 30 60		20 40 60		2 6 10		1 3		20 80 160)	5 15	
	N-Acetyl- aspartate	0.47 0.6	1 0.66	0.79	0.86	0.80	0.77	0.66	0.74	0.82	0.72	0.65	0.57	0.82
		Glycerol- phosphate	0.67	0.55	0.54	0.74	0.56	0.62	0.57	0.62	0.52	0.66	0.41	0.57
		3-Hyd butyra		0.65	0.68	0.86	0.70	0.66	0.64	0.68	0.56	0.75	0.43	0.58
	40 40 40 40		c 2-Hydroxy- butyrate	0.82	0.81	0.91	0.82	0.69	0.74	0.72	0.63	0.68	0.48	0.69
			°°°°	Dimethyl- guanosine	0.92	0.86	0.72	0.60	0.64	0.68	0.64	0.62	0.51	0.66 - දු
		ૡૢૻૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢ			N-Methyl- guanosine	0.87	0.77	0.61	0.69	0.74	0.70	0.64	0.56	0.71
			ି ଜ ୁଙ୍କି			Pseudo- uridine	0.91	0.84	0.84	0.85	0.78	0.82	0.65	0.75
	500 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50		ိုးစိုးစိုးစိုးစိုးစိုးစိုးစိုးစိုးစိုးစ				Isoleucine	0.92	0.91	0.88	0.87	0.82	0.75	0.73
	A Constant of the second secon			6680° c	ൢ൙ഀഀ			Leucine	0.88	0.88	0.89	0.82	0.77	0.69
		ంత్ం ంత్ తోలం తోలం	ୁ କୁନ୍ଦିର୍ଦ୍ଦୁ କୁନ୍ଦିର୍ଦ୍ଦୁ	္ ၀ ၀၀၀ ၀ ၀၀၀		، مورجه مورجه	° 80		Valine	0.84	0.84	0.80	0.71	0.78
	A CON	\$ \$`` \$ \$					1	88 ^{80° C}	,	Glutamine	0.89	0.77	0.78	0.88 g
	20 140	ବ ^{୦୦} କ୍ରି ^ତ ି ଜୁନିତି ଜୁନିତି ଜୁନିତି ଜୁନିତି		് ക്ലൂട്ടുക്ക പ	ૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢ	A CONSTRUCTION OF CONSTRUCTUON	6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6		ૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢ		Phenyl- alanine	0.86	0.86	0.77
	දුණුමුමුව මේදීමුව මේදීමුව		ີ່ຜູ້ເພິ່ງ	് പ്ലോഗ് പ	ૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૢ		258° °°°	80°°	૱ૼ૾૾ૼ	<u></u>	۵٬ ۲۰ ۲۰	Trypto- phan	0.72	0.64
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	5 20 35		30	50 150		100 400	 	10 30	^م مینوند.	10 40 70	ക്ഷളം ര്	50 150	. 	1,5-Anhy- droglucitol



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D Pseudouridine (0.84) 3-Hydroxybutyrate (0.82) Glutamine (0.81) N-Acetyl-aspartate (0.77) 0.3 Decanoyl-carnitine (0.77) Glutathione disulfide N-Methyl-guanosine (0.75) 2-Hydroxybutyrate (0.74) Isoleucine (0.74) 0.71~0.84 Creatinine 0.2 Leucine (0.74) Glutathione disulfide (-0.73) Tryptophan (0.72) Valine (0.71) Dimethyl-guanosine (0.71) 0.1 Glycerol-phosphate (0.71) Kynurenine (0.71) :

> 0 + 0

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Creatinine

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Category	Suject No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Age/Gender	75M	79M	78M	69F	78F	70F	69F	77F	74F	76F	81F	80F	80F	75F	33M	38M	29M	30M	30M	34M	30M	33F	29F	31F	29F	25F	27F
Antioxidant	Glutathione disulfide ↑	75.1	73.0	52.5	62.4	51.6	56.0	63.8	55.2	57.9	46.3	45.9	48.1	58.7	50.7	50.5	41.9	46.0	42.8	39.6	43.8	43.3	39.6	44.8	41.6	39.6	39.6	39.6
Sugar derivative	myo-Inositol ↑	54.5	42.6	52.8	40.5	49.1	72.6	41.6	75.7	50.0	47.4	51.5	54.2	76.1	46.1	39.4	52.0	40.4	41.3	50.6	44.7	46.9	49.0	44.3	48.6	48.1	50.1	
	Dimethyl-guanosine	37.6	40.6	48.1	42.0	45.7	36.2	29.0	43.5	48.3	51.8	55.0	43.9	43.2	43.5	39.9	63.4	50.1	57.3	73.2	58.4	48.7	59.6	62.4	55.6	56.6	62.9	53.4
	N-Methyl-adenosine	36.4	56.3	39.6	55.8	37.7	41.2	44.8	37.8	35.3	48.1	63.6	38.1	47.5	46.2	55.4	55.1	51.2	56.7	61.8	43.2	68.1	59.2	64.9	48.9	49.9	41.1	66.2
Nucleosides,	Pseudouridine	36.2	39.0	49.6	40.7	46.0	45.9	36.6	42.4	40.7	48.9	58.0	41.2	40.9	43.4	42.5	69.8	50.2	55.8	71.5	65.5	60.1	50.1	53.5	60.7	48.6	62.6	
nucleobases	N-Methyl-guanosine	38.1	39.2	47.6	36.5	45.3	41.5	39.9	38.2	44.8	52.4	52.6	41.6	44.3	36.1	42.2	61.7	50.0	58.3	73.1	57.3	55.5	60.6	58.1	54.8	60.7	66.4	53.3
	Adenosine	38.4	41.7	41.4	41.5	50.4	42.1	39.5	45.2	49.2	56.5	56.8	45.1	28.5	47.8	41.8	67.2	48.1		51.9	49.0	49.4	63.4	58.5	68.0	44.1	64.9	
	Hypoxanthine	37.1	38.2	61.0	40.9	54.2	35.7	53.1	40.9	45.2	58.1	65.3	37.7	39.0	33.9	43.4	52.6	50.2	53.9	57.3	56.5	52.7	71.4	63.1	47.2	60.5	51.3	49.7
6	Gluconate	37.7	43.3	50.3	34.2	41.5	48.7	38.3	45.4	40.1	66.4	66.0	43.1	44.9	46.7	44.3	75.5	43.3	48.5	63.5	57.2	54.5	49.3	49.9	49.8	57.6	62.8	
Sugar derivatives	N-Acetyl-glucosamine	37.9	45.1	43.9	45.3	49.1	32.0	43.4	47.3	45.6	61.7	73.2	45.9	37.0	39.0	42.4	48.9	44.3	57.3	63.4	47.6	70.0	55.9	55.8	52.8	46.6	61.1	57.4
	1,5-Anhydroglucitol	43.4	42.2	44.8	45.2	43.8	44.7	40.4	41.8	42.7	46.8	56.9	45.7	45.5	43.5	52.8	66.3	47.1	54.1	64.1	53.8	52.3	46.0	47.3	54.7	49.2	88.1	46.5
	Glycerol-phosphate	42.1	42.7	59.4	42.9	44.6	45.1	42.7	42.4	44.4	44.7	57.4	43.3	41.7	45.9	43.5	61.1	49.6	47.7	51.0	86.9	54.3	47.6	54.9	55.0	43.8	67.1	
Current alternation	Fructose-1,6-diphosphate	41.1	41.3	43.3	40.8	40.5	51.6	41.4	40.9	40.4	50.6	65.5	40.6	48.3	57.9	48.2	70.2	65.1	46.0	58.3	53.4		53.1	76.5	44.5	51.6	52.3	44.3
Sugar phosphates	Fructose-6-phosphate	41.1	41.8	66.4	39.8	41.8	47.7	40.0	39.0	41.1	48.5	83.1	41.6	57.2	40.7	43.3	58.7	51.5	49.9	55.0	44.8	58.6	57.4	59.3	51.3	48.9	52.5	49.2
	Pentose-phosphate	36.6 43.8	39.9	51.1	37.1	48.4	41.6	41.1	45.7 43.6	46.2 44.1	49.2	72.9	46.3	41.4	43.7	43.2	58.9 80.5	49.9	51.6	68.8	66.1	52.3 47.4	47.4	70.8		47.7	59.3 80.2	
Cholines,	Phosphoglycerate Glycerophosphocholine	43.8	43.6 51.8	49.7 60.4	44.3 42.5	45.5	45.8	44.3	37.3	44.1	46.4 48.3	50.9 32.9	44.2 46.1	52.9 33.6	45.8 44.0	44.9 50.1	43.1	47.1 49.6	48.4 63.3	46.4	58.2 54.0	61.6	47.5 56.8	46.4 68.8	65.8 44.1	46.6 57.6	48.1	45.7 57.0
ethanolamines	Glycerophosphoethanolamine	44.5 39.4	41.1	56.6	42.5	44.9 44.5	40.6	45.6	46.6	49.6	48.3	64.1	46.1	33.0	44.0	44.2	45.1	49.6	51.8	73.8 51.1	61.7	49.3	56.9	81.9	44.1 52.5	47.1	48.1 69.6	
ethanolarinies		41.9	41.1	46.4	40.9	44.5	44.0	41.2	45.2	49.7 50.2	41.9	41.6	43.9	44.9	37.0	44.2	56.9	50.7	73.1	45.3	51.8	63.1	46.9	39.0	72.6	46.2	68.9	64.4
	(iso)Butyryl-carnitine	41.9	47.0	57.2	43.7 37.4	46.9	41.8 39.0	41.6	45.2	49.1		41.8	46.6	51.2		48.7	47.7	55.3	64.4	45.3 57.7	51.8	77.5		41.0	64.7	46.2	69.7	
Carnitines	(iso)Valeryl-carnitine	49.4						45.5	40.7							40.6												40.5
	Decanoyl-carnitine		42.2	49.3 52.1	40.2 38.1	44.8 38.1	39.4	41.5	44.4	40.5	50.8	48.7 42.8	46.1	50.0	36.8		59.0 58.6	47.1 45.8	63.0 50.0	64.0	77.6 72.6	71.6 58.4	46.6	47.2	53.9	47.5 48.8	60.1	48.4 53.2
	Octanoyl-carnitine	53.5	1010	-			36.3	1011	-		51.5	_	40.8	44.1	36.6	52.6				65.2			51.3	61.0	69.8	48.8	56.5	
Organic acids	2-Hydroxybutyrate	40.1	41.4	54.4	40.9 41.8	45.5 45.4	42.7 48.9	40.6 40.4	41.3 40.0	42.9 42.2	48.0	62.4	43.6 42.7	46.8	42.3 41.9	43.2 41.3	70.4 63.1	48.3	51.2 52.6	81.0	64.9 83.5	52.5 57.6	47.9 48.4	53.0 48.4	49.4		59.4	47.7 50.1
	3-Hydroxybutyrate Histidine	40.2 48.3	51.5	57.7 46.9	39.8	45.4	40.9	33.5	30.3	42.2	42.8 36.7	56.9 51.5	34.0	49.1 48.6	39.1	50.7	42.9	47.6 50.2	59.4	64.6 60.1	58.7	65.4	53.9	53.9	56.6 63.8	46.9 62.5	58.9 66.3	57.5
	Phenylalanine	48.3 39.2	46.1	46.9	39.8 38.9	48.7	53.4	33.5 37.6	30.3	46.8	49.8	64.5	41.1	48.0	39.1	44.1	74.5	56.2	59.4	53.6	49.5	55.8	50.1		67.5	51.7	70.6	45.9
	Tryptophan	41.8	44.8	51.3	40.3	49.2	52.5	35.2	35.4	48.7	49.0	60.2	38.9	48.7	38.0	45.9	70.5	49.8	58.8	56.6	61.5	59.1	46.4	49.8 52.7	73.8	44.4	59.6	
	Asparagine	41.0	44.8	45.2	40.5 37.1	49.8	60.2	31.5	33.1	54.6	46.4	53.4	41.9	46.7	40.9	43.9	66.1	49.8	50.3	58.6	48.7	53.4	53.9	47.1	75.8	61.1	63.9	50.1
	Glutamine	44.0	49.0	40.9	42.2	49.5	50.6	35.8	40.1	42.2	46.0	64.3	41.9	40.7	40.9	42.0	68.7	54.2	57.8	60.0	57.1	63.6	47.5	44.7	55.5	50.7	76.7	48.7
	Leucine	36.8	42.1	46.7	43.0	44.6	54.0	36.8	38.6	43.6	46.0	68.2	39.8	37.7	52.5	46.3	74.4	57.7	48.7	56.7	56.3	63.0	50.3	46.6	63.5	48.1	62.8	45.3
Standard amino	Lysine	49.2	53.4	47.3	42.0	56.1	47.2	42.3	43.3	43.3	42.5	56.0	44.3	44.5	43.1	46.3	62.1	90.0	45.3	44.7	54.7	48.6	44.5	54.0	59.1	42.7	58.7	44.7
acids	Methionine	42.7	49.4	44.7	37.5	49.6	66.1	39.1	39.5	49.5	44.3	63.4	44.9	28.4	39.8	44.5	61.7	59.7	56.5	57.2	47.2	50.4	49.2	50.7	67.5	47.6	69.7	49.4
	Serine	48.8	43.9	40.6	39.1	45.1	54.2	33.7	36.2	44.5	53.1	59.6	38.1	30.6	44.9	45.9	61.1	47.8	66.6	57.3	55.0	57.3	54.0	50.8	69.6	57.1	63.2	51.9
	Threonine	46.1	44.8	48.6	42.9	47.1	72.5	33.0	39.2	42.7	48.4	54.5	41.1	42.8	38.9	39.5	58.5	49.5	63.6	62.2	49.7	59.0	45.5	46.4	68.3	49.0	66.9	49.1
	Aspartate	34.5	40.0	43.4	44.7	50.4	42.0	38.5	43.3	46.8	57.1	52.3	41.9	44.9	49.0	49.9	34.9	48.5	71.5	54.6	50.7	50.3	76.2	48.7	53.6	58.4	58.8	65.1
	Isoleucine	37.4	42.0	51.2	42.9	44.7	50.7	38.2	39.2	40.1	49.7	70.3	41.2	38.7	41.4	44.6	70.3	50.5	53.9	67.3	52.2	63.5	51.0	47.4	62.0	51.1	62.0	46.8
	Valine	38.0	41.3	45.5	42.5	43.2	50.2	38.1	40.4	41.5	49.2	67.3	40.5	37.8	41.4	63.2	72.5	48.3	53.1	62.6	56.2	59.4	50.0	48.8	61.3	49.4	64.0	44.9
	Dimethyl-arginine	35.0	46.5	54.9	45.0	50.6	43.0	38.6	40.5	51.0	40.1	49.2	44.4	59.4	39.9	53.3	55.7	60.2	40.4	45.0	64.5	60.2	52.7	43.4	72.0	41.0	73.0	-
	N-Methyl-histidine	36.4	44.5	48.1	33.7	47.9	51.0	35.0	43.6	42.7	48.0	48.3	41.5	44.6	43.3	38.8	57.4	58.5	68.5	63.0	53.6	55.2	58.1	54.5	66.6	40.4	66.5	60.3
Methylated amino	Trimethyl-lysine	41.8	42.3	49.9	41.8	44.0	49.5	37.5	53.4	46.8	51.4	42.8	50.2	48.7	45.6	46.5	49.1	54.9	54.2	49.4	55.3	39.6	60.1	51.6	91.8	49.2	57.0	45.3
acids	Dimethyl-lysine	35.1	42.9	47.3	41.2	52.3	39.5	38.0	38.6	40.4	41.7	69.6	53.4	59.2	45.6	49.5	47.9	63.3	41.1	64.6	49.5	52.3	42.7	59.7	68.1	45.9	58.4	62.3
	Butyro-betaine	43.5	48.7	49.1	41.2	54.7	41.5	44.0	49.4	49.9	42.8	42.8	52.3	44.7	40.8	61.8	45.8	46.0	51.6		45.5	75.4	44.3	44.0	68.4	45.4	78.9	45.6
	N-Acetyl-arginine	39.5	26.2	50.4	36.4	56.3	63.8	32.0	38.8	51.3	47.0	51.4	38.6	53.2	51.6	45.5	53.5	57.4	56.6	42.3	48.2	53.5	65.1	57.7	61.1	65.1	58.0	49.5
Acetylated amino	N2-Acetyl-lysine	40.2	33.4	57.0	36.6	55.7	44.6	34.3	37.9	48.8	44.8	51.5	41.3	61.5	41.9	48.7	52.8	76.6	53.7	43.7	50.4	48.7	65.6	54.4	58.5	59.6	56.5	51.2
acids	N6-Acetyl-lysine	37.0	53.7	42.9	49.7	41.1	57.8	33.0	33.9	37.1	56.0	50.3	38.3	50.5	38.7	65.6	63.1	57.2	43.5	54.8	52.4	45.3	68.2	58.2	63.8	47.6	55.4	
	N-Acetyl-aspartate	34.6	37.5	43.4	42.4	44.3	45.4	35.1	39.9	38.9	50.1	55.0	41.8	49.9	45.8	49.1	56.8	45.2	64.0	65.9	53.2	57.6	55.9	47.4	60.9	59.8	74.9	
	Creatinine	35.1	38.7	47.0	41.0	46.3	45.3	35.3	41.8	39.6	37.9	56.4	40.6	51.2	44.3	46.2	69.0	56.9	61.1	57.6	69.3	63.6	48.2	51.1	49.9	57.7	62.1	56.6
	Indoxyl-sulfate	37.2	39.2	45.7	44.0	56.6	51.6	36.6	44.2	39.3	43.7	70.4	36.9	44.5	44.5	44.8	66.7	50.7	50.2	49.9	52.2	58.5	54.9	45.0	69.0		65.4	62.3
	4-Guanidinobutanoate	39.7	41.4	40.0	40.6	41.8	78.6	37.9	41.3	47.6	58.3	63.9	45.5	42.7	43.1	49.9	49.4	54.4	49.1	47.1	46.6	61.9	51.8		61.6	68.0		50.8
	Taurine	45.2	45.3	47.5	46.2	46.7	47.1	45.3	46.1	46.3	47.7	56.4	45.7	48.5	47.0	47.4	97.8	47.6	49.3	54.7	52.3	50.6	45.4	48.7	50.0	44.9	52.3	47.9
Other amino acids	Carnosine	44.2	44.6	49.2	42.6	45.7	46.1	42.4	44.2	42.3	43.1	45.6	42.4	56.1	42.2	56.1	74.3	48.8		52.7	46.5	49.7	47.1	49.2	56.9	43.9	81.9	45.4
	Keto(iso)leucine	41.4	43.2	52.2	42.5	43.9	52.5	41.4	42.3	43.9	43.9	66.2	43.5	88.0	43.5		51.6	48.0	47.3	66.1		54.6	45.8	52.4	51.9	50.6	50.1	46.7
	Kynurenine	49.1	45.3	57.6	39.8	44.1	46.6	40.9	38.1	42.5	41.2	64.4	42.1	52.4		40.0		43.5	55.3	52.7	55.5	59.1	46.4	49.6	63.3		54.0	52.2
	Quinolinic acid	37.0	39.0	49.7	38.9	50.5	39.5	36.7	44.4	38.2	62.1		39.7	47.0	42.1	44.3	47.3	45.1	56.4	66.1	70.3	64.0	58.1	54.6	51.7	52.1	66.8	51.1
	S-adenosyl-homocysteine		58.0									51.0					38.4											-
		51.7	55.0		J		20.0	.3.3	5 7.0	.5.0	57.7	52.0	55.0		52.2	52.7	55.4	.5.0	52.0	55.4		55.5	55.2	55.0	52.5	51.0		00.0

Figure 4.

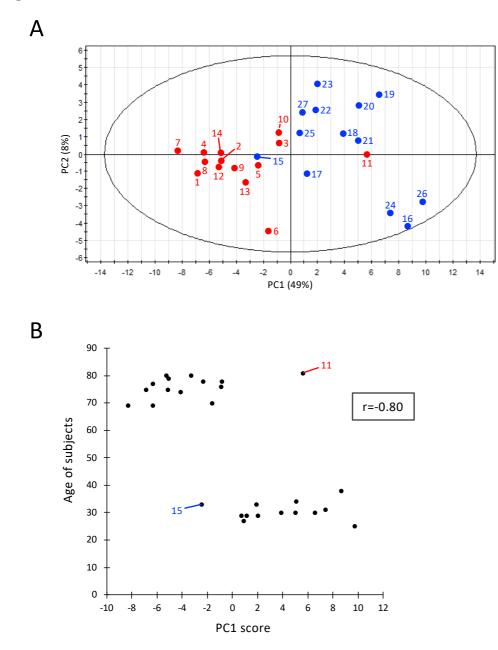
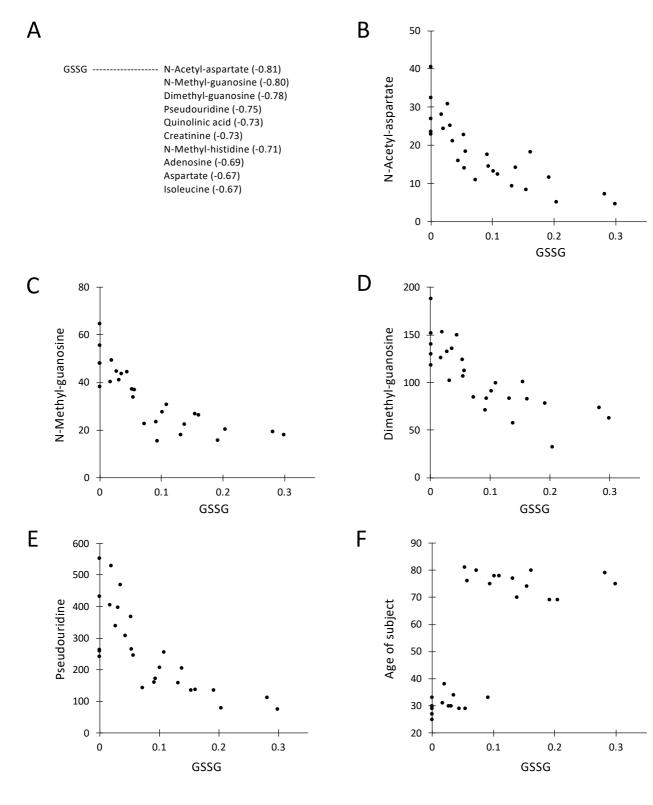


Figure 5.



Supplementary information

Aging markers in human urine: A comprehensive, non-targeted LC-MS study

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	Youth(n=13)	Elderly (n=14)	All (n=27)
Age (mean ± standard deviation)	30.6±3.2	75.8±3.9	54.0±22.9
Gender (male/female)	7/6	3/11	10/17
BMI (kg/m ²) (mean ± standard deviation)	22.5±2.7	24.5±3.7	23.5±3.4

Supplementary Table S1. Characteristics of 27 subjects

Supplemental Table S2. List of 99 urine compounds identified in the present study.

Category / Compound	Peak abundance	p-value elderly/young	Category / Compound	Peak abundance	p-value elderly/you	
Nucleosides, nucleobases, and derivative	es (12)		Standard amino acids (17)			
Dimethyl-guanosine*	H-M	0.00009	Arginine	H-M	0.45827	
-Methyl-adenosine*	H-M	0.00395	Histidine*	H-M	0.00003	
seudouridine*	H-M	0.00005	Phenylalanine*	H-M	0.00126	
Irate	H-M	0.34988	Tryptophan*	H-M	0.00471	
imethyl-xanthine	H-L	0.72031	Tyrosine	M	0.12786	
anthine	H-L	0.68485		M-L	0.12780	
			Asparagine*			
N-Methyl-guanosine*	М	0.00001	<u>Glutamate</u>	M-L	0.40196	
Adenosine*	M-L	0.00228	Glutamine*	M-L	0.00033	
Caffeine	M-L	0.94295	Leucine*	M-L	0.00154	
Cytidine	M-L	0.48795	Lysine*	M-L	0.04265	
Hypoxanthine*	M-L	0.04265	Methionine*	M-L	0.01070	
Jridine	L	0.07627	Proline	M-L	0.25884	
			Serine*	M-L	0.00026	
Sugar derivatives (4)			Threonine*	M-L	0.00662	
Gluconate*	H-M	0.01448	Aspartate*	L	0.00275	
N-Acetyl-glucosamine*	H-M	0.01675	Isoleucine*	L	0.00102	
L,5-Anhydroglucitol*	M-L	0.00003	Valine*	L	0.00033	
nyo-Inositol*	M-L	0.03766				
			Methylated amino acids (12)			
Sugar phosphates (6)			Betaine	Н	0.10476	
Glycerol-phosphate*	H-L	0.00228	Dimethyl-arginine*	Н	0.01675	
Fructose-1,6-diphosphate*	L	0.00780	N-Methyl-histidine*	Н	0.00042	
Fructose-6-phosphate*	L	0.01070	Trimethyl-lysine*	н	0.02222	
<u>Glucose-6-phosphate</u>	L	0.55018	Dimethyl-lysine*	H-M	0.02222	
Pentose-phosphate*	L	0.00662	Dimethyl-proline	H-M	0.18518	
Phosphoglycerate*	L	0.00662	Trimethyl-tryptophan	H-L	0.75638	
nosphogrycerate	L	0.00002				
<i>(</i>)			Butyro-betaine*	M-L	0.04265	
Vitamins and coenzymes (3)			N6-Methyl-lysine	M-L	0.30216	
Pantothenate	H-M	0.18518	<u>Trimethyl-histidine</u>	M-L	0.61595	
1-Aminobenzoate	H-L	0.48795	<u>Trimethyl-tyrosine</u>	M-L	0.18178	
<u>Nicotinamide</u>	M-L	1.00000	<u>S-Methyl-ergothioneine</u>	L	0.16939	
Choline and ethanolamine derivatives (4)		Acetylated amino acids (6)			
Phosphocholine	M	0.32548	N-Acetyl-arginine*	H-M	0.00003	
Glycerophosphocholine*	M-L	0.00228	N2-Acetyl-lysine*	М	0.00915	
Glycerophosphoethanolamine*	L	0.00228	N6-Acetyl-lysine*	M	0.00154	
	L		N-Acetyl-aspartate*			
Phosphoethanolamine	L	0.21988	7 1	M-L	0.01675	
			N-Acetyl-glutamate	M-L	0.09448	
Carnitines (8)			N-Acetyl-(iso)leucine	M-L	0.09448	
Carnitine	H-M	0.45827				
iso)Butyryl-carnitine*	H-M	0.00187	Other amino acids (15)			
iso)Valeryl-carnitine*	H-L	0.01247	Creatinine*	н	0.00001	
Acetyl-carnitine	H-L	0.65004	Hippurate	н	0.32548	
Decanoyl-carnitine*	M-L	0.00560	Indoxyl-sulfate*	н	0.00187	
Hexanoyl-carnitine	M-L	0.09448	4-Guanidinobutanoate*	H-M	0.01448	
Octanoyl-carnitine*	M-L	0.00009	Taurine*	H-M	0.01448	
•	M-L	0.98097	Acetyl-carnosine	M-L	0.58264	
Propionyl-carnitine	IVI-L	0.50057	•			
Omennia maida (64)			<u>Carnosine*</u>	M-L	0.00053	
Drganic acids (11)			Citrulline	M-L	0.21988	
Citrate	H-M	0.12786	<u>Creatine</u>	M-L	0.27995	
2-Hydroxybutyrate*	M-L	0.00082	Keto(iso)leucine*	M-L	0.03766	
2-Oxoglutarate	M-L	0.42960	Kynurenine*	M-L	0.01675	
3-Hydroxybutyrate*	M-L	0.00395	Quinolinic acid*	M-L	0.00102	
Arginino-succinate	M-L	0.86738	S-Adenosyl-methionine	M-L	0.25884	
is-Aconitate	M-L	0.25884	Ornithine	L	0.06094	
Citramalate	M-L	0.10476	<u>S-Adenosyl-homocysteine*</u>	L	0.02547	
	M-L		J-Adenosyi-HolHocystellie	L	0.02547	
Glycochenodeoxycholate		0.42960	Durahara h. f		14/1-12	
<u>Malate</u>	M-L	0.32548	P-values between age groups were	calculated by Manr	N Whitney U-te	
Succinate	M-L	0.11587	Asterisks indicate 55 compounds the	at showed significa	nt difference	
Glycerate	L	0.14075	(p<0.05). The peak ratio is describe	d in onlv asterisked	compounds	
			Thirty-one RBC-enriched compound	-	-	
Antioxidant (1)					naiconis et di.	
Glutathione disulfide*	L	0.00003	2016).			

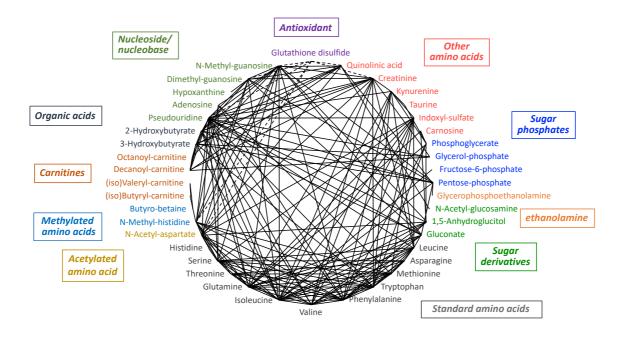
Supplemental Table S3, Chromatogram and mass spectrum data.

Category /Compound	Status	Ionization	Theoretical m/z	Detected m/z	m/z error (ppm)	RT (min
Nucleosides, nucleobases, and derivatives (12)						
Adenosine	STD	pos	268.1040	268.1036	1.4	6.4
Caffeine	STD	pos	195.0877	195.0872	2.8	3.9
Cytidine	STD	pos	244.0928	244.0927	0.5	10.2
Dimethyl-guanosine	STD	pos	312.1302	312.1298	1.3	6.0
Dimethyl-xanthine	STD	pos	181.0720	181.0713	3.9	4.4
Hypoxanthine	STD	pos	137.0458	137.0453	3.4	7.6
N-Methyl-adenosine	STD	pos	282.1197	282.1192	1.8	12.8
N-Methyl-guanosine	STD	pos	298.1146	298.1141	1.7	7.6
Pseudouridine	STD	neg	243.0623	243.0621	0.9	10.2
Urate	STD	neg	167.0211	167.0210	0.9	12.7
Uridine	STD	neg	243.0623	243.0621	0.7	7.2
Xanthine	STD	neg	151.0261	151.0264	-1.8	8.6
Sugar derivatives (4)						
1,5-Anhydroglucitol	STD	neg	163.0612	163.0614	-1.0	9.9
Gluconate	STD	neg	195.0510	195.0512	-1.3	13.0
myo-Inositol	STD	neg	179.0561	179.0559	0.9	16.8
N-Acetyl-glucosamine	STD	pos	222.0972	222.0968	1.6	10.4
Sugar phosphates (6)						
Fructose-1,6-diphosphate	STD	neg	338.9888	338.9887	0.4	18.7
Fructose-6-phosphate	STD	neg	259.0224	259.0224	-0.1	16.0
Glucose-6-phosphate	STD	neg	259.0224	259.0223	0.3	16.8
Glycerol-phosphate	STD	neg	171.0064	171.0065	-0.6	14.5
Pentose-phosphate	STD	neg	229.0119	229.0118	0.5	15.1
Phosphoglycerate	STD	neg	184.9857	184.9857	-0.1	16.7
Vitamins and coenzymes (3)						
4-Aminobenzoate	STD	pos	138.0550	138.0545	3.8	7.4
Nicotinamide	STD	pos	123.0553	123.0548	3.9	4.9
Pantothenate	STD	pos	220.1179	220.1176	1.2	5.3
Choline and ethanolamine derivatives (4)						
Glycerophosphocholine	STD	pos	258.1101	258.1091	4.0	14.4
Glycerophosphoethanolamine	MS/MS	neg	214.0486	214.0486	0.01	15.4
Phosphocholine	STD	pos	184.0733	184.0729	2.4	15.1
Phosphoethanolamine	STD	neg	140.0118	140.0120	-1.8	16.1
Carnitines (8)						
Acetyl-carnitine	STD	pos	204.1230	204.1227	1.6	9.1
(iso)Butyryl-carnitine	STD	pos	232.1543	232.1540	1.3	6.1
Carnitine	STD	pos	162.1125	162.1120	3.1	12.6
Decanoyl-carnitine	STD	pos	316.2482	316.2476	2.0	3.9
Hexanoyl-carnitine	STD	pos	260.1856	260.1852	1.4	5.0
Octanoyl-carnitine	STD	pos	288.2169	288.2163	1.9	4.0
Propionyl-carnitine	STD	pos	218.1387	218.1383	1.5	7.4
(iso)Valeryl-carnitine	STD	pos	246.1700	246.1696	1.6	5.4
Organic acids (11)						
2-Hydroxybutyrate	STD	neg	103.0401	103.0406	-4.5	4.8
2-Oxoglutarate	STD	neg	145.0142	145.0145	-2.3	14.6
3-Hydroxybutyrate	STD	neg	103.0401	103.0406	-5.0	6.5
Arginino-succinate	STD	pos	291.1299	291.1295	1.4	17.0
cis-Aconitate	STD	pos	175.0237	175.0233	2.0	17.8
Citramalate	STD	neg	147.0299	147.0301	-1.4	13.8
Citrate	STD	neg	191.0197	191.0198	-0.7	17.8
Glycochenodeoxycholate	STD	-	448.3068	448.3075	-0.7	3.3
Malate	STD	neg	448.3068 133.0142	448.3075 133.0146	-1.5	3.3 15.2
Glycerate	STD	neg	133.0142		-3.0	8.6
Succinate	STD	neg neg	105.0193	105.0198 117.0197	-5.2 -3.4	8.6 14.4
Antioxidants (3)						
Glutathione disulfide	STD	pos	613.1592	613.1578	2.3	17.7

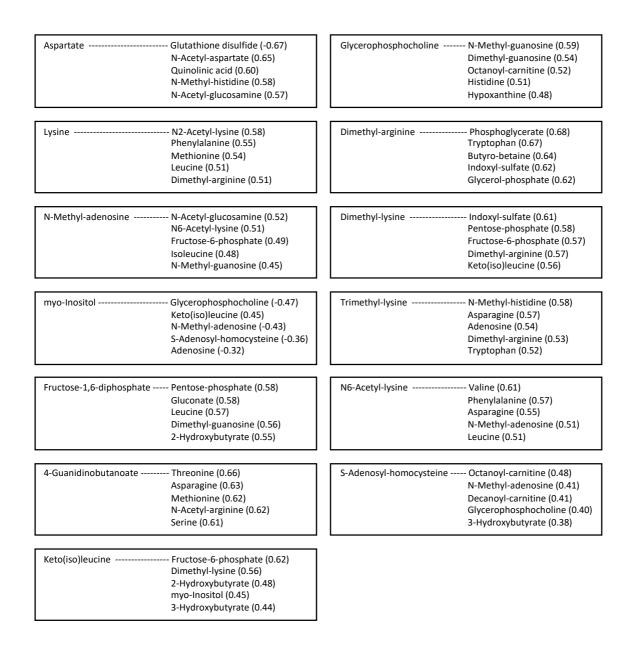
Supplemental Table S3, (continued)

Standard amino acids (17) Arginine				m/z	(ppm)	
Arginine						
	STD	pos	175.1190	175.1186	2.5	26.2
Asparagine	STD	pos	133.0608	133.0603	4.0	14.5
Aspartate	STD	pos	134.0448	134.0443	3.8	13.9
Glutamate	STD	pos	148.0604	148.0600	2.8	14.0
Glutamine	STD	neg	145.0619	145.0622	-1.9	14.5
Histidine	STD	pos	156.0768	156.0762	3.7	13.9
Isoleucine	STD	neg	130.0874	130.0877	-2.3	9.3
Leucine	STD	neg	130.0874	130.0877	-2.3	8.7
Lysine	STD	neg	145.0983	145.0984	-1.0	25.1
Methionine	STD	pos	150.0583	150.0579	2.9	9.6
Phenylalanine	STD	pos	166.0863	166.0858	3.1	7.6
Proline	STD	pos	116.0706	116.0701	4.3	11.6
Serine	STD	pos	106.0499	106.0493	5.5	15.2
Threonine	STD	pos	120.0655	120.0650	3.9	13.6
Tryptophan	STD	pos	205.0972	205.0968	2.2	10.0
Tyrosine	STD	pos	182.0812	182.0808	2.4	12.2
Valine	STD	neg	116.0717	116.0721	-3.7	11.2
Methylated amino acids (12)						
Betaine	STD	pos	118.0863	118.0857	4.8	9.2
Butyro-betaine	STD	pos	146.1176	146.1171	3.5	9.2 12.7
Dimethyl-arginine	STD	•	203.1503	203.1498	2.4	22.0
	STD	pos			2.4	22.0
Dimethyl-lysine Dimethyl-proline	STD	pos	175.1441	175.1439 144.1014	3.7	8.3
		pos	144.1019			
N-Methyl-histidine	STD	pos	170.0924	170.0921	1.6	11.5
N6-Methyl-lysine	STD	pos	161.1285	161.1280	3.1	24.0
S-Methyl-ergothioneine	STD	pos	244.1114	244.1112	0.8	8.4
Trimethyl-histidine	STD	pos	198.1237	198.1233	1.8	11.2
Trimethyl-lysine	STD	pos	189.1598	189.1593	2.5	22.7
Trimethyl-tryptophan	STD	pos	247.1441	247.1436	2.0	6.1
Trimethyl-tyrosine	MS/MS	pos	224.1281	224.1277	1.9	7.9
Acetylated amino acids (6)						
N-Acetyl-arginine	STD	pos	217.1295	217.1292	1.4	14.7
N-Acetyl-aspartate	STD	neg	174.0408	174.0409	-0.8	13.8
N-Acetyl-glutamate	STD	pos	190.0710	190.0706	2.0	13.4
N-Acetyl-(iso)leucine	STD	pos	174.1125	174.1120	2.8	3.7
N2-Acetyl-lysine	STD	pos	189.1234	189.1230	2.3	14.9
N6-Acetyl-lysine	STD	pos	189.1234	189.1230	2.3	12.3
Other amino acids (15)						
4-Guanidinobutanoate	STD	pos	146.0924	146.0919	3.3	14.9
Acetyl-carnosine	STD	pos	269.1244	269.1241	0.9	6.9
Carnosine	STD	pos	227.1139	227.1133	2.5	15.6
Citrulline	STD	pos	176.1030	176.1026	2.2	15.7
Creatine	STD	neg	130.0622	130.0625	-2.1	14.2
Creatinine	STD	neg	112.0516	112.0520	-3.8	7.0
Hippurate	STD	pos	180.0655	180.0651	2.1	4.0
Indoxyl-sulfate	STD	neg	212.0023	212.0021	0.8	4.7
Keto(iso)leucine	STD	neg	129.0557	129.0561	-3.0	3.5
Kynurenine	STD	pos	209.0921	209.0917	-3.0	8.8
Ornithine	STD	neg	131.0826	131.0829	-2.1	23.0
Quinolinic acid	STD	-	166.0146	166.0152	-2.1 -3.4	23.0 14.3
	STD	neg			-3.4 2.6	
S-Adenosyl-homocysteine		pos	385.1289	385.1279		13.3
S-Adenosyl-methionine Taurine	STD STD	pos neg	399.1445 124.0074	399.1439 124.0077	1.5 -2.7	17.0 13.5

Compounds were identified using either commercially available standards (STD) or by analysis of MS/MS spectra (MS/MS), if no standard was available.



Supplemental Figure S1. Of the 55 aging markers, 13 compounds with correlations <0.7. The 5 most highly correlated compounds for each.



Supplemental Figure S2. Of the 55 aging markers, 13 compounds with correlations <0.7. The 5 most highly correlated compounds for each.