

THE NEW SCIENCE OF
AGING AND THE QUEST
FOR IMMORTALITY

WHY

WE

DIE



Venki Ramakrishnan

Winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Why We Die: A Public Talk with
Nobel Laureate Venki
Ramakrishnan

Presented by the Bard College Division of
Science, Mathematics, and Computing

Humans may be the only species that is aware of mortality, but for most of our existence there was nothing we could do about it. The last few decades have seen dramatic advances in our understanding of aging and death. Along with our understanding there is a desire to attack some of the causes of aging to improve health in old age. And some would also want to postpone aging and death, perhaps indefinitely. In this talk, Nobel Laureate Venki Ramakrishnan will describe some of our current understanding of the causes of aging and efforts to tackle it. He will also touch on potential social and ethical implications of this work.

All are welcome to attend this prestigious event.

For event details or questions please contact:

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This talk is made possible thanks to the support of the Office of the Dean of the College and the Division of Science, Mathematics, and Computing

Date & Time: Friday, 4/26/24 - (1:00 - 3:00 pm) Talk and Q&A followed by Reception

Location: Bard College : Olin Auditorium : 35 Henderson Cir Dr, Red Hook, NY 12571

VENKI RAMAKRISHNAN

Venki Ramakrishnan grew up in India and left at the age of 19 for the United States. After a long career there, he moved in 1999 to the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England. He works on the structure and function of the ribosome, an enormous molecular complex that reads the genetic information on mRNA (itself copied from a stretch of DNA) to synthesize the proteins they specify. His work also showed how many antibiotics work by blocking bacterial ribosomes, which could help to design better antibiotics. For this work, he shared the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. From 2015-2020, he was president of the Royal Society.

Ramakrishnan is the author of a popular memoir, *Gene Machine*, a frank description of the race for the structure of the ribosome and the science and personalities involved, and *Why We Die*, about the biology of aging and our current efforts to combat it.

***** Book sales available during the event by Oblong Books between the hours of 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm *****

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