

Putin's Daughter Says Fear of Death Will Drive Advances Against Aging

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Maria Vorontsova **Video screenshot**

President Vladimir Putin's daughter Maria Vorontsova said advances in medicine could help address aging within the next 10 to 20 years, driven by humanity's fear of death, the Vedomosti newspaper [reported](#).

Vorontsova, an endocrinologist who heads Moscow State University's Medical Research and Education Institute, spoke at a forum marking the launch of a laboratory at the Skolkovo Moscow School of Management to study how longer lifespans affect public policy, the economy and the labor market.

She said efforts to extend life should be divided into two stages. The first involves reaching what she described as humans' natural lifespan of 85 to 90 years through healthy habits developed in childhood, proper nutrition and regular medical checkups.

The second involves trying to "cheat God or nature" by living beyond that natural limit, she said, acknowledging that scientific progress in this area remained limited.

Vorontsova said one obstacle was that aging is not classified as a disease, complicating drug development, which requires a clearly defined diagnosis and clinical trials.

Still, she said, the “universal human fear of death” would push medicine toward tackling aging within the next 10 to 20 years.

Related article: [In Rare Interview, Putin’s Daughter Says Russia Places High Value on Human Life](#)

Her remarks come as Russia invests in research aimed at extending life, an area that has drawn interest from Putin and members of his inner circle.

Deputy Science and Higher Education Minister Denis Sekirinsky previously [said](#) Russian researchers were developing what he called a vaccine against aging that is designed to block a gene associated with age-related changes in cells.

Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova [said](#) Russia planned to begin producing an anti-aging drug between 2028 and 2030.

The research forms part of the national project New Health Preservation Technologies, which was launched in 2025 at Putin’s direction.

An unidentified source close to the Kremlin [told](#) the exiled news outlet Meduza in 2024 that the initiative stemmed from an obsession with eternal life on the part of Mikhail Kovalchuk, a Putin associate who heads the Kurchatov Institute.

Kovalchuk oversees a federal program supporting Russian genetics research in which Vorontsova also [participates](#).

Putin has never publicly acknowledged Vorontsova and her younger sister Katerina Tikhonova as his daughters, while the Kremlin has kept details of their lives a closely guarded secret.

Russia [plans](#) to spend more than 2 trillion rubles (\$12 billion) in total on the health technology project and a separate national project, Long and Active Life, also launched in 2025 at Putin’s direction.

Putin has set targets to raise Russian life expectancy to 78 by 2030 and 81 by 2036, from a [reported](#) 74.2 years. Male life expectancy is about 68.

Putin, 74, has long been interested in rejuvenation treatments, according to media reports.

During a visit to Beijing in September 2025, he was [overheard](#) discussing the prospect of achieving immortality through medical technology and organ transplants with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

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