

Table 2.1 Selected quotations arguing against the aging *vs.* disease dichotomy.

Charcot, 1881, p. 20 ⁴³	“The textural changes which old age induce in the organism sometimes attain such a point that the physiological and pathological states seem to mingle by an imperceptible transition and to be no longer sharply distinguishable.”
Kleemeier, 1965, p. 55 ⁴⁴	“Can the effects of aging <i>per se</i> be distinguished from those of pathology? (...) to attribute to aging all time associated changes to which no specific cause can be found is at best a temporary holding tactic which will suffice only as long as we are ignorant of the mechanism involved. Time alone causes nothing.”
Hall, 1984, p. 78f ⁴⁵	“Attempts have been made by numerous workers to separate physiological from pathological aging. The two are, however, so inter-related as to make attempts relatively abortive. It would be far more relevant to accept the existence of a continuum of ageing phenomena.”
Rattan, 1991, p. 526 ⁴⁶	“Although it is well known that most diseases show marked increases with age, the connection between the ageing process and the incidence of age-related diseases is highly underestimated. Recent developments in gerontology are unearthing the molecular link between ageing and disease.”
Holliday, 1995, p. 138 ⁴⁷	“...The distinction between so-called natural ageing and the pathologies that are common in old people is artificial. What we see is an increasing likelihood of many diseases in individuals as they age, which does not, of course, mean that all individuals develop all the pathologies.”
Callahan and Topinkova, 1998, p. 94 ²	“In short, not only does aging lend itself to be characterised as a disease, but the advantage of doing so is that, by rejecting the seeming fatalism of the label ‘natural’, it better legitimises medical efforts to either eliminate it or to get rid of those undesirable conditions associated with it.”
Guarente and Kenyon, 2000, p. 261 ³	“When single genes are changed, animals that should be old stay young. In humans, these mutants would be analogous to a ninety-year-old who looks and feels forty-five. On this basis we begin to think of ageing as a disease that can be cured, or at least postponed.”
Caplan, 2005, p. S75 ⁶	“(...) the common belief that ageing is a natural process is also mistaken. And if that is true, and if it is actually the case that what occurs during the ageing process parallels the changes that occur during paradigmatic examples of disease (...), then it would be reasonable to consider ageing as a disease.”
Gems, 2009, p. 3 ⁴⁸	“The evolutionary theory adds insult to injury by telling us that it is a process without any kind of benign function in the cycle of life; moreover, it is, essentially, a form of genetic disease, that everybody has and that is invariably fatal. We, all of us, have inherited a horrible and invariably fatal genetic disease.”
Bulterijs <i>et al.</i> , 2015 p. 3 ⁴⁹	“As aging appropriately fits the definition of disease, there is a shifting consensus that aging should be seen as a disease process in itself, and not a benign progression of age that increases the risk of disease.”
