



# HEALTHY AGING: LIFE BEYOND 60

Healthy aging has become a trending topic. A healthy and nutritious diet, daily physical exercise, and regular health check-ups are, among others, actions within our reach which contribute to one of the most desirable traits of our modern lives: how to live better as we grow older.

Yet, even if we are dedicated to making lifestyle choices that foster healthy aging, there are still risk factors that are beyond our control: frailty which naturally comes with older age, genetic predispositions to certain diseases which are likely to manifest as we get older, poor or insufficient healthcare systems and lack of medical technologies to name but a few.

The number of people aged 60 years and older will increase by approximately 40% to 1.4 billion by 2030 according to the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>1</sup>



## AN INCREASING AGING POPULATION

Adding to the above risky landscape is the aging population. This significant shift in global demographics is putting more pressure on the socioeconomic structure and resources of all countries across various sectors, particularly the healthcare industry.

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This industry faces a growing shortage of healthcare professionals along with a lack of sufficient and effective medical and technological solutions to meet the needs of the increasing aging population. It comes, thus, as no surprise that health-related organizations are prioritizing healthy aging on their agendas.

WHO, for instance, has established the Healthy Ageing [sic] Collaborative, a multistakeholder initiative comprising governments, academic institutions and private sector entities.

It is aimed at ensuring the “highest attainable standard of health” for both the aging population and their wider communities such as families and peers.<sup>2</sup> Healthy aging is also a national priority for the US Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP).<sup>3</sup>

## Europe acknowledges the value of innovation to optimizing healthcare for senior citizens.

Innovation spearheads the developments in biotechnology, medical devices and digital platforms and applications. Recognizing the value of innovation for the senior population, the European Commission, for example, has established the Blueprint on Digital Transformation of Health and Care for the Ageing Society.

The Blueprint is a guide focusing on more inclusive healthcare for the elderly. It is essential to directing much-needed investments into healthtech innovation and guaranteeing the commitment of key industry players to progress.<sup>4</sup>



## NLC FOR HEALTHY AGING

Healthy aging is a priority for us at NLC, as well. In line with the European Commission's programme, our mission is to foster innovation and leverage it to build ventures that will advance the healthcare industry and support healthcare professionals (HCP) in the field of healthy aging.



1: [https://www.who.int/health-topics/ageing#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/ageing#tab=tab_1)

2: <https://www.who.int/news/item/22-09-2022-launch-of-the-healthy-ageing-collaborative>

3: <https://health.gov/our-work/national-health-initiatives/healthy-aging>

4: <https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/active-and-healthy-living-digital-world/silver-economy-healthtech/pages/silver-economy-and-healthtech>

# Examples of ventures

**Musculoskeletal conditions** are one of our main target areas. With an astonishing 1.71 billion people suffering from musculoskeletal conditions worldwide<sup>5</sup>, we are in need of more effective technologies to enhance musculoskeletal health diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.

Our current portfolio features, among others, NC Biomatrix, which has developed a first-of-a-kind injectable intervertebral disc tissue regeneration technology to tackle chronic lower back pain.

As far as total hip replacement is concerned, another example is Garland Surgical. Garland Surgical is pioneering the field with the MaltaHip implant which, thanks to its design and clinically proven materials, offers a wider range of movement along with an extended implant lifespan.



As implants come with the risk of wear and infections, Implant Preservation Devices (IPD) offers a solution that removes the infection-causing biofilm, ensuring a longer life span for the implant (e.g. orthopedic, dental, oncological).

Another example of a venture improving the quality of life for the elderly is Carebed. Carebed is the world's first full vertical transfer sleep-to-stand electric bed which helps senior people transfer from a bed to a walking aid and back, increasing, thus, their autonomy.

5: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/musculoskeletal-conditions>

## EARLY-STAGE INNOVATION

In order for these and other early-stage technologies to successfully enter the healthcare industry, entrepreneurial spirit, industry know-how and a strong network of venture experts is required. Along with the lack of sufficient capital and funding targeted at innovations, these are some of the main reasons why many innovative technologies remain stuck in the development stage and fail to reach the patients in need.

## THIS IS WHERE NLC FITS IN

One of our goals is to continue offering the aging population socially inclusive healthcare solutions which are in their infancy and require more capital to get to the market. Therefore, we have set up the Health Impact Fund. This Fund will financially support, among others, our 9 ventures contributing to healthy aging and drive more early-stage investments in them. Simply put, the Health Impact Fund aims to be true to its name and make a societal impact.

Additionally, the Health Impact Fund contributes to UN Sustainable Development Goals 3, 9 and 17 and adheres to the highest impact investing standard (SFDR 9), which entails the obligation to report on impact metrics.



# As you grow older, day by day, what do you fear most?

Let us take away that fear and ensure, with your support, that innovative health technologies reach you and your loved ones in time.

For more information about this investment opportunity, please visit <https://hif.nlc.health/info>. You are also more than welcome to contact Hidde, our Investment Director, and/or Johanneke, our Portfolio Director, to discover directly how you can join us in making a difference in healthcare for healthy aging.



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