

Department of Biology

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Investigating a Mysterious Overproliferation of Aged Germ Cells in *D.*
Melanogaster

During the course of the summer, our primary project was the study of the development of somatic stem cells in the testes over different aging periods. However the results were disrupted by the appearance of tumor-like growths in certain fly stocks after the 35-day aging period. Redirection of focus to investigate this phenomenon allowed us to eliminate antibiotics and Wolbachia as possible causative agents. We are currently in the process of further exploring whether the symptom is produced by genetic mutation, one of two known *Drosophila* viruses, or a new infectious agent altogether.