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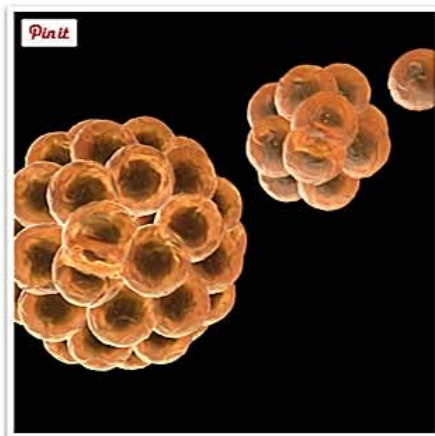
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The CRAZY Connections Between Hair, Skin and Stem Cells

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I recently attended a luncheon celebrating women in science at [Rockefeller University](#). The crowd was filled with supporters and scientists (including designer Tory Burch, with whom I arrived), all rapt with attention listening to Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D., discuss her [studies of stem cells in hair follicles](#).



What Dr. Fuchs discovered was that stem cells' regulatory factors, including the Nfact1 gene, determine hair growth. Which is totally exciting not only because I might be able to say goodbye to my weekly electrolysis appointments at some point (although [I love you, Berenice!](#)), but also because the understanding of hair's stop-and-go cycles is key to understanding how to make tissue -- specifically skin -- grow.

Plus, someday we might be able to figure out how to accelerate wound repair and exploit the knowledge for skin cancer therapies and other issues. What's even more intriguing, is that Dr. Fuchs and her team "now know how to rejuvenate an aged hair follicle stem cell," which means they're trying to understand if there's a biological clock on them -- and if so, can it be rejuvenated? -- which then ultimately relates to the science behind aging in general.

I am totally in awe of these kinds of women who are dedicated to science for the benefit of humanity, which is also the [mantra of Rockefeller University](#). Check out what they're up to now!

--Elaine D'Farley, Beauty Director

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