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封面故事

“再生”是生物个体修复、替换受损或缺失的细胞和组织的过程，其在个体稳态调节和器官损伤修复中发挥了重要的作用。再生医学旨在开发和应用新的治疗方法，恢复组织和器官因衰老、疾病和损伤丧失的功能，已成为全球生命科学医学领域的前沿方向之一。

当前，全球老龄化问题日趋严峻。据联合国《世界人口展望2022》的数据显示，预计2050年，全世界每6人中，就有1人年龄在65岁（16%）以上。与日俱增的老年人口为国家发展带来巨大挑战。衰老是疾病最大的危险因子，人体组织器官在衰老过程中出现干细胞耗竭、再生修复能力下降、功能衰退等现象，阿尔兹海默症、帕金森病、癌症等多种疾病发生率攀升。解析组织器官再生的规律和调控机制，挖掘再生相关的生物标志物及可能的干预靶点，以此发展调控再生、延缓器官衰老的可靠干预策略，具有重要的研究意义和应用前景。

插图表达了运用再生医学手段逆转衰老时钟的寓意。破旧的“时钟”代表衰老，“壁虎”和“爬山虎”象征再生。“壁虎”象征衰老干预策略。这些元素结合起来象征领域发展生机勃勃。