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COVER The Virginia opossum on the cover comes from a long-lived population on Sapelo Island, Georgia, that is being used to study mammalian aging. New animal models are an important part of current gerontology research (see news stories on page 622). Research on aging processes is critical, because even cures for heart disease and cancer probably would have little effect on overall life expectancy (see article on page 634). [Photograph by David Scott]

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