

Google announces a new healthcare company

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Singapore: Operator of the world's most-popular search engine Google has announced Calico, a new company that will focus on health and well-being, in particular the challenge of aging and associated diseases. Mr Arthur D Levinson, chairman and former CEO of Genentech and chairman of Apple, will be chief executive officer and a founding investor.

Announcing the new investment, Mr Larry Page, Google CEO, said, "Illness and aging affect all our families. With some longer term, moonshot thinking around healthcare and biotechnology, I believe we can improve millions of lives. It's impossible to imagine anyone better than Arthur - one of the leading scientists, entrepreneurs and CEOs of our generation - to take this new venture forward."

Mr Levinson said, "I've devoted much of my life to science and technology, with the goal of improving human health. Larry's focus on outsized improvements has inspired me, and I'm tremendously excited about what's next."

Mr Levinson will remain chairman of Genentech and a director of Hoffmann-La Roche, as well as chairman of Apple.

Commenting on Mr Levinson's new role, Mr Franz Humer, chairman of Hoffmann-La Roche, said, "Arthur's track record at Genentech has been exemplary, and we see an interesting potential for our companies to work together going forward. We're delighted he'll stay on our board."

Mr Tim Cook, chief executive officer of Apple, said, "For too many of our friends and family, life has been cut short or the quality of their life is too often lacking. Arthur is one of the crazy ones who thinks it doesn't have to be this way. There is no one better suited to lead this mission and I am excited to see the results."