Cell Research press release

Age is written all over your face

A 3D facial imaging process that could be used to predict physiological age is reported in *Cell Research* this week.

Jing-Dong Han and colleagues collected 3D facial images of 332 participants of Chinese origin between the ages of 17 and 77. Using this data, the authors generated a map of the ageing human face and were able to develop a method to quantify patterns of ageing based on certain facial features. The authors note that mouth width, nose width and the distance between the mouth and nose increase with age, while the corners of the eyes start to droop.

Using this method, the authors constructed a model for predicting age. They found that up until the age of 40, people of the same chronological age could differ by up to six years in facial age. Over the age of 40, variation in facial age increased. The model was used to identify participants who were physiologically ageing faster or more slowly than their chronological age would suggest. These results were supported by indicators for health and age in blood samples taken from the participants.

Further studies are required to examine if this model could be applied to other ethnic groups.

http://nature.com/articles/doi:10.1038/cr.2015.36