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Table 2
Regression Results for Life Span, Achievement Domain, and Versatility

Variable		*n*	*b*	*SE b*	ß
Constant[a]		321	59.69	.83	
Intraversatile	(V1)	126	.91	1.56	.02
Interversatile	(V2)	208	4.65	1.32	.12
Scientists	(SC)	257	9.22	1.24	.27
SC*V1		130	–2.72	2.23	–.05
SC*V2		90	–8.60	2.25	–.13
Visual Artists	(VA)	458	6.42	1.08	.20
VA*V1		64	–4.61	2.52	–.06
VA*V2		38	–1.92	2.83	–.02

Note. $R = .21$; $R^2 = .05$; $SE = 14.85$; $N = 1692$.
[a]The constant term refers to nonversatile creative writers.

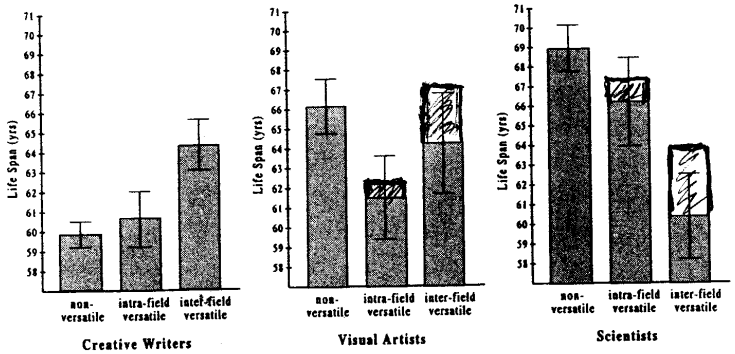

Figure 2
Life span results across achievement domain × versatility interactions.

DISCUSSION

The present study examined two main questions regarding the life spans of eminent individuals. First, are eminent creative writers truly dying younger than their counterparts in other fields of creative endeavor? The response to this query is clearly "Yes." Through the use of a large, inclusive sample, with strict data-reliability restrictions and proper statistical controls, any lingering doubts that such a phenomenon is more myth than reality should be laid to rest. Not only are creative writers dying younger than their counterparts in other creative disciplines, but a consistent pattern of life-span differences can be discerned across creative achievement domains. In particular, at average age 62, the average literary artist dies