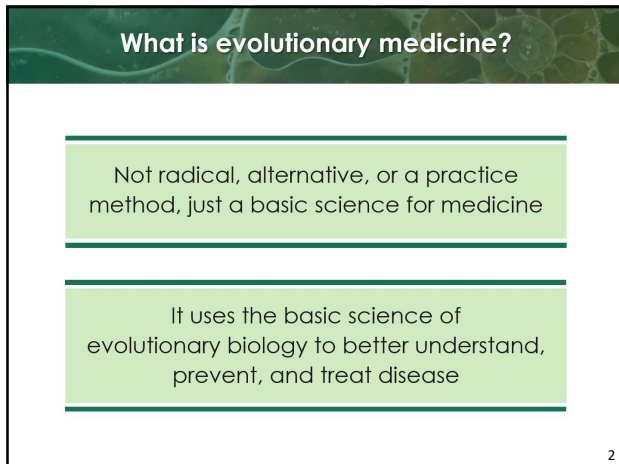
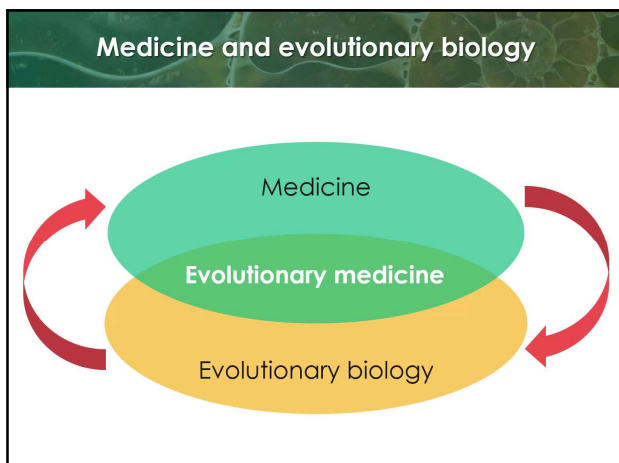




1



2



3



The growth of evolutionary medicine

Volume 46, No. 1, March 2001

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW of BIOLOGY

THE DAWN OF DAWGWOOD MEDICINE

Quinn C. Whitmore
Department of Biology, University of Michigan, 4810 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1108

Barbara M. Hesse
Department of Psychology, University of Michigan, 4810 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1108

Figure 5: Google scholar citations with keywords "evolutionary medicine" Citations from 1991 to 2011 are

EVOLUTION, MEDICINE, & PUBLIC HEALTH

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EVOLUTION, MEDICINE & PUBLIC HEALTH

EvMedEd

THE EVOLUTION & MEDICINE REVIEW


Club EvMed

HSTalks

4

4

Traits need two kinds of explanation

 “ No biological problem is solved until both the proximate and the evolutionary causation has been elucidated ”

E. Mayr, 1982

Furthermore, the study of evolutionary causes is as legitimate a part of biology as is the study of the usually physico-chemical proximate causes


Medicine has been using only one half of biology

5

5

Natural selection

When inherited variations in a trait influence the number of offspring, the trait will change over the generations

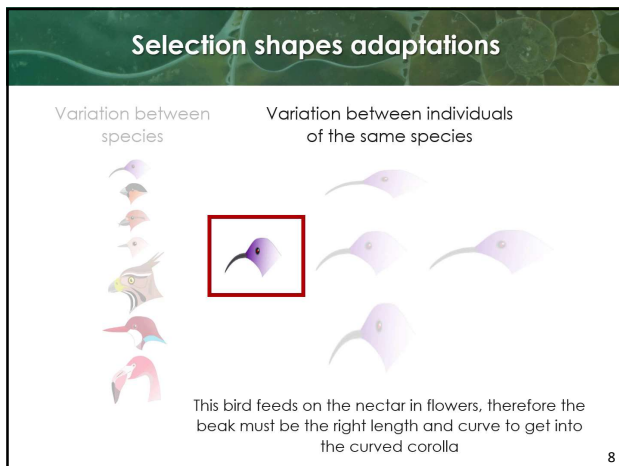


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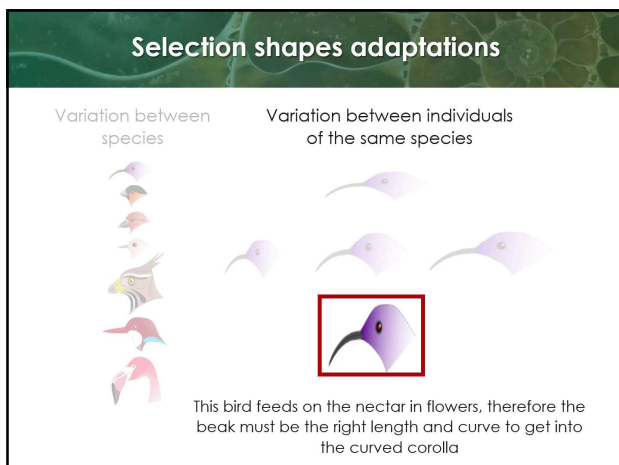
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9



Selection shapes adaptations

Variation between species

Variation between individuals of the same species

This bird feeds on the nectar in flowers, therefore the beak must be the right length and curve to get into the curved corolla

10

Selection shapes adaptations

Variation between species

Variation between individuals of the same species

This bird feeds on the nectar in flowers, therefore the beak must be the right length and curve to get into the curved corolla

11

Apparent maladaptation

9

12



Apparent maladaptation

13

Tinbergen's 4 questions

Nico Tinbergen, 1963

01.

How does it work?

02.

How did it develop?

03.

How is it useful?

04.

What is its phylogeny?

10

14

Tinbergen's 4 questions, organized

Tinbergen's four questions		Two objects of explanation	
		Sequence	Single form
Two kinds of explanation	Proximate Mechanisms and their ontogeny	Ontogeny Q: How does the trait develop in individuals?	Mechanism Q: What is the structure of the trait; how does it work?
	Evolutionary Functions and phylogeny	Phylogeny Q: What is the history of the trait?	Adaptive significance Q: How have variations in the trait influenced fitness?

Nesse, R. M. Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 2013 28(12), 681–682

11

15



Tinbergen's 4 questions, organized			
Tinbergen's four questions		Two objects of explanation	
		Sequence	Single form
Two kinds of explanation	Proximate	Ontogeny Q: How does the trait develop in individuals?	Mechanism Q: What is the structure of the trait; how does it work?
	Evolutionary	Phylogeny Q: What is the history of the trait?	Adaptive significance Q: How have variations in the trait influenced fitness?

Nesse, R. M. Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 2013 28(12), 681–682

16

Tinbergen's 4 questions, organized			
Tinbergen's four questions		Two objects of explanation	
		Sequence	Single form
Two kinds of explanation	Proximate	Ontogeny Q: How does the trait develop in individuals?	Mechanism Q: What is the structure of the trait; how does it work?
	Evolutionary	Phylogeny Q: What is the history of the trait?	Adaptive significance Q: How have variations in the trait influenced fitness?

Nesse, R. M. Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 2013 28(12), 681–682

17

Tinbergen's 4 questions, organized			
Tinbergen's four questions		Two objects of explanation	
		Sequence	Single form
Two kinds of explanation	Proximate	Ontogeny Q: How does the trait develop in individuals?	Mechanism Q: What is the structure of the trait; how does it work?
	Evolutionary	Phylogeny Q: What is the history of the trait?	Adaptive significance Q: How have variations in the trait influenced fitness?

Nesse, R. M. Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 2013 28(12), 681–682

18



The paradox

Near perfection
for some traits

Grossly poor
design for others

12

19

Amazing perfection

The heart and valves

13

20

Amazing perfection

The eye

14

21



Amazing perfection

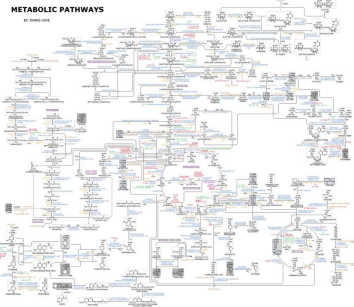
The human hand



22

Amazing perfection

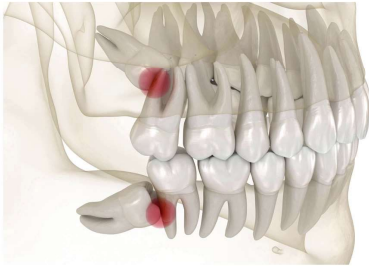
Metabolic pathway



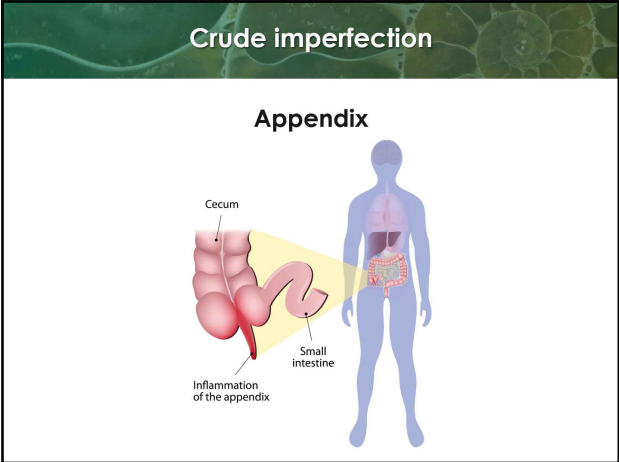
23

Crude imperfection

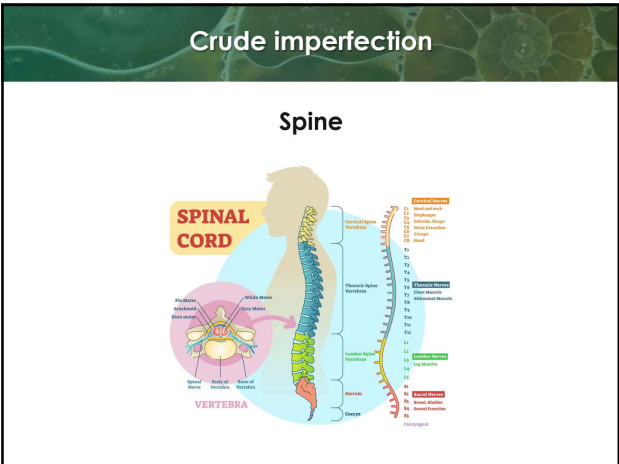
Wisdom teeth



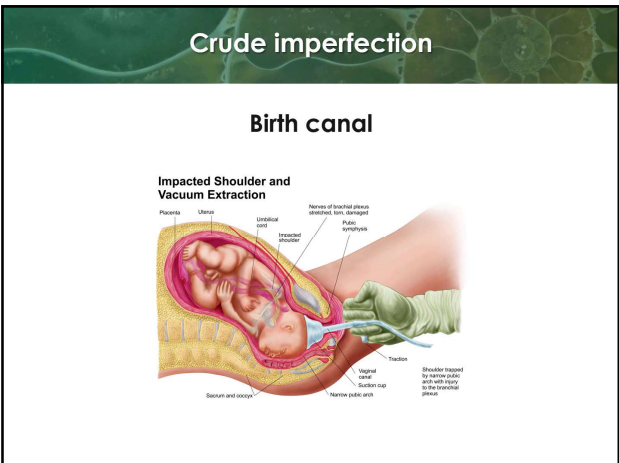
24



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26



27



A new question

Why did natural selection leave
the body vulnerable to disease?

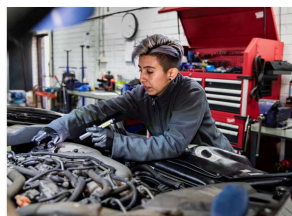
Not why **some individuals** get sick
Why **all individuals in a species** have traits
that make them vulnerable?

15

28

The usual question

A mechanic/medic asks



How does it work?

What is broken?

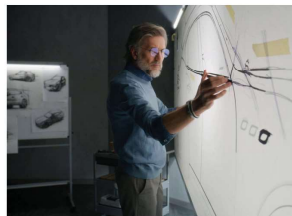
How can we fix it?

16

29

The evolutionary question

An engineer/evolutionist asks



What is the history
of this part?


Why wasn't it
designed better?

17

30



Darwin made two discoveries



Phylogeny

The unity of all life

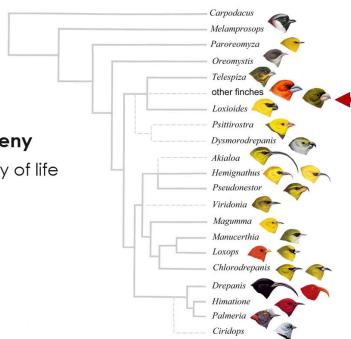
Adaptation

How traits are shaped to be suited to their functions

18

31

Phylogeny and adaptation



Phylogeny

The unity of life

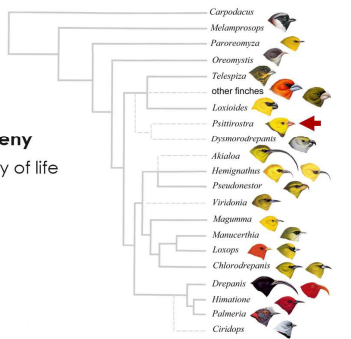
Adaptation

Why traits work so well

19

32

Phylogeny and adaptation



Phylogeny

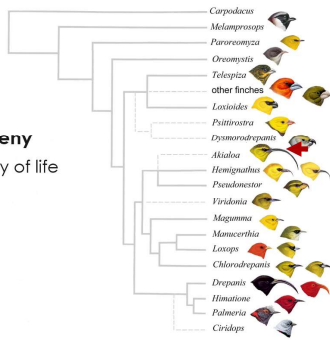
The unity of life

Adaptation

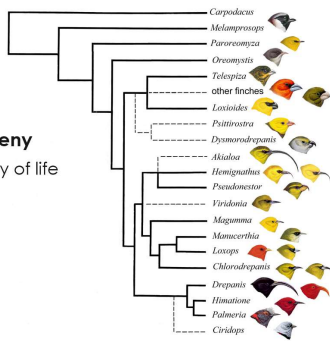
Why traits work so well

33

Why traits work so well



Why traits work so well



Adaptation and maladaptation



The phylogenomic half of evolutionary medicine

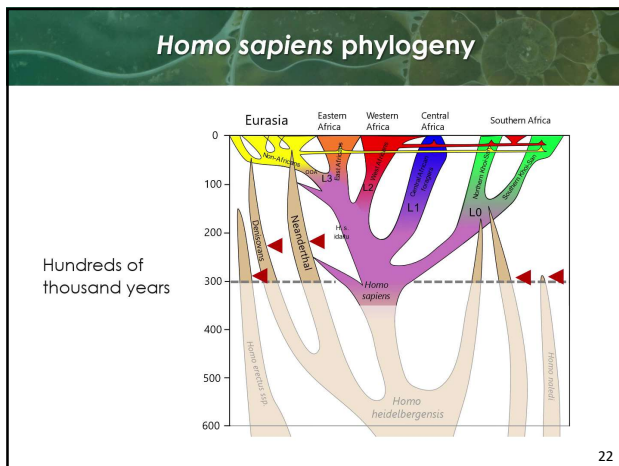
Human ancestry

Pathogen origins and evolution

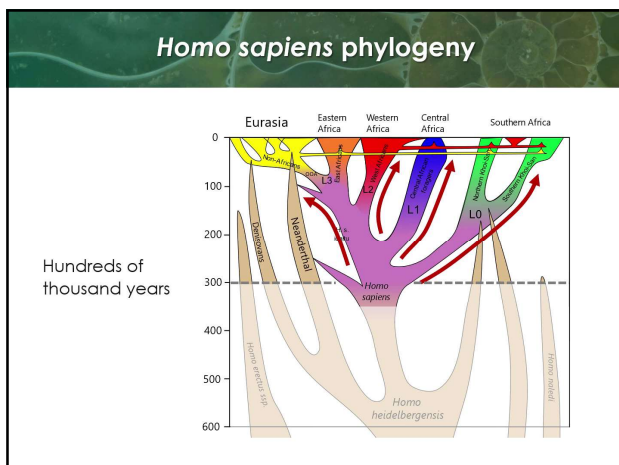
Selection influences on human genes

21

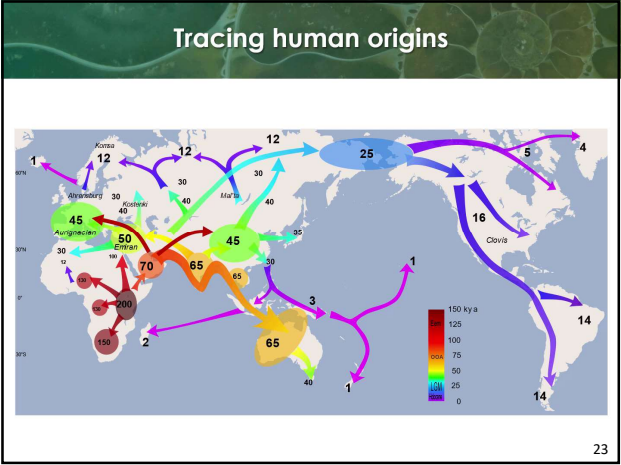
37



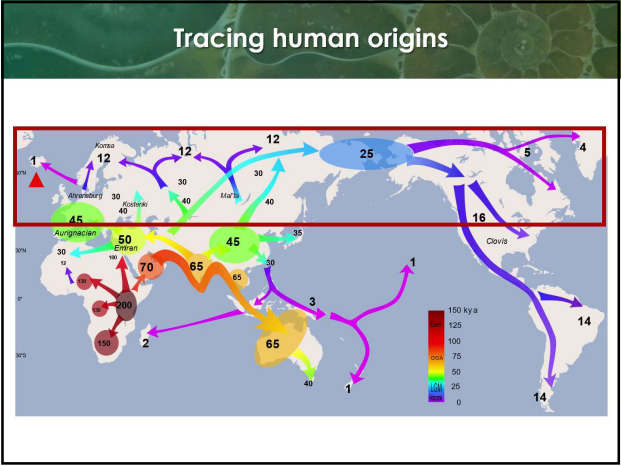
38



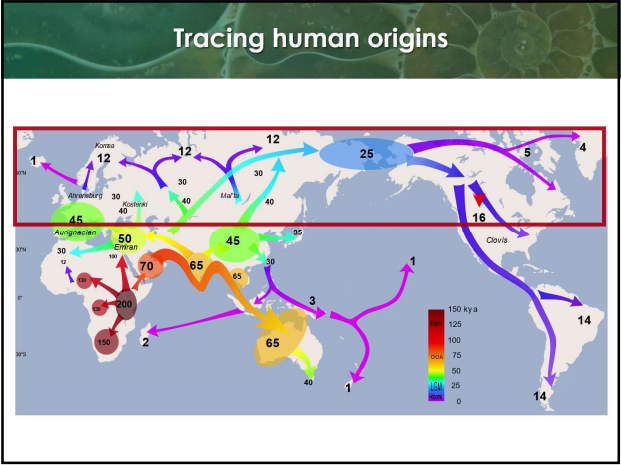
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42

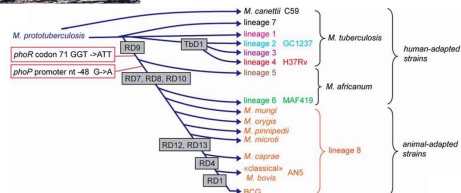
How did it get there?

Bos, K. I. et al. *Nature*. 2014: **514**(7523):494-7

24

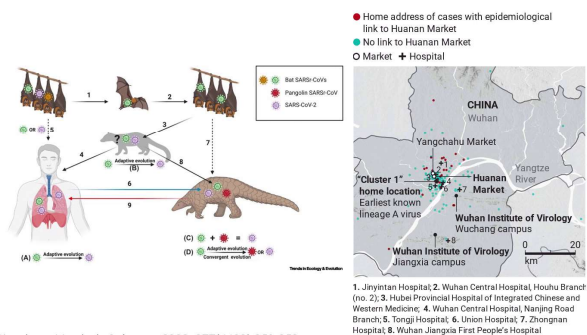
43

A large group of seals, likely Steller sea lions, are resting on a dark, rocky shore. They are of various shades of brown and black, with some showing lighter patches. The seals are in various poses, some looking towards the camera, others looking away. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a forested area.

Bos, K. I. et al. *Nature*, 2014: **514**(7523):494-7

44

25



Worobey, M. et al., *Science*. 2022; **377**(6609):951-959
Banerjee, A. et al., *Trends Ecol Evol*. 2021; **36**(3):180-184

45



Selection for TB protection in cities

TB became worse in urban environments

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

doi:10.1111/j.1558-5646.2010.01132.x

ANCIENT URBANIZATION PREDICTS GENETIC RESISTANCE TO TUBERCULOSIS

Ian Barnes,¹ Anna Duda,² Oliver G. Pybus,³ and Mark G. Thomas^{2,4,5}

Conclusion

SLC11A1 protection factor has become more common in areas that were urbanized earlier rather than later

Barnes, I. et al., *Evolution*, 2011; 65(3):842-8

26

46

The inability to digest milk as an adult

The inability to digest milk is a variation that happens in some individuals

Itan, Y. et al., *PLoS Comput Biol*, 2009; 5(8):e1000491

27

47

Strep mutans + carbohydrates --> cavities

“ *S. mutans* populations started expanding exponentially approximately 10,000 years ago, coincidental with the onset of human agriculture ”

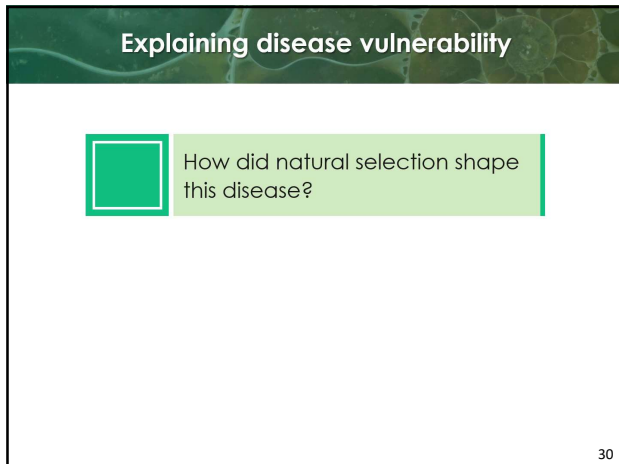
Cornejo, O. E. et al., *Mol Biol Evol*, 2013; 30(4):881-93

28

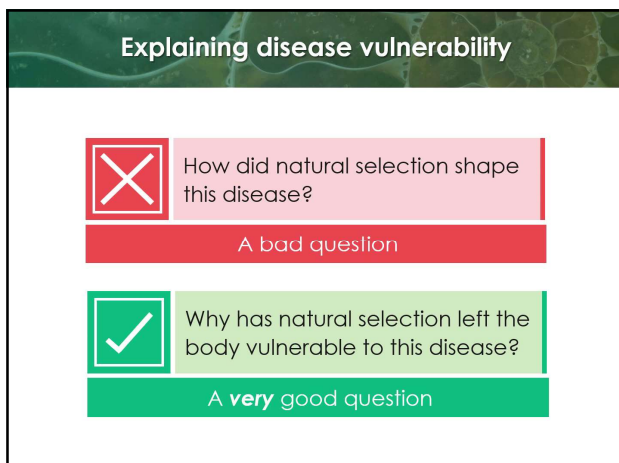
48



49



50



51



Why did natural selection leave us vulnerable?

- It can't prevent all mutations and variation
- It can't start fresh or avoid genetic drift
- It is slow
- It maximizes reproduction at a cost to health
- It optimizes trade-offs to maximize inclusive fitness at a cost to health

31

52

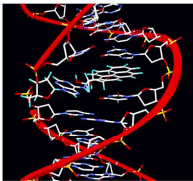
Explanations for vulnerability

01. Individual variations, genetic and developmental
02. Species-wide suboptimal designs
03. Arms races with fast-evolving pathogens
04. Mismatch with novel environments
05. Trade-offs that reduce robustness
06. Gene transmission at the expense of health
07. Defenses are adaptations, not diseases

32

53

Mutations



- ▶ About 100 new mutations per individual
- ▶ Deleterious variants only slowly purged
- ▶ Mutation selection balance
 - Explains individual differences
 - But not why a trait is vulnerable

33

54



Apo E4

- ▶ 25% heterozygous
- ▶ Increases inflammation and risk for Alzheimer's and atherosclerosis
- ▶ Ancestral, being replaced by E2 and E3

34

55

Apo E4

FASEB JOURNAL • RESEARCH • www.fasebj.org
Trumble, B. C. *et al.*, *FASEB J.* 2017; 31(4):1508-1515

Apolipoprotein E4 is associated with improved cognitive function in Amazonian forager-horticulturalists with a high parasite burden
Benjamin C. Trumble,^{*,1,3} Jonathan Stieglitz,^{3,5} Aaron D. Blackwell,⁶ Hooman Allayee,^{1,6} Bret Beheim,^{**,7}


- ▶ Slows cognitive decline in the Ache
- ▶ Apo E4 improves cognition!
- ▶ A gene is never beneficial or harmful unless except in a particular environment

56

Developmental variation

- ▶ Ontogeny is astoundingly canalized
- ▶ But stochastic variation nonetheless leaves some individuals impaired

The brain is especially vulnerable



▶ It's important to recognize that there are going to be multiple explanations for a single trait

35

57



Species-wide vulnerabilities

Path dependence

Can't start fresh

Useful changes disrupt other systems

Genetic drift

Fixation of deleterious alleles

Loss of useful alleles

36

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Wrenching transitions: to bipedality

Neck pain

Back Pain

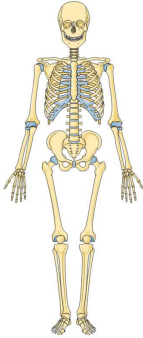
Dystocia

Hernia

Arthritis

Varicose veins

Ankle problems



Rotator cuff injuries

Broken hip

Pelvic prolapse

Knee injuries

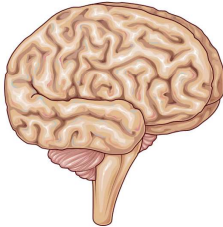
Shin splints

Plantar fasciitis

37

59

Wrenching transitions: cognitive/social niche



What needs to change in the brain to...

Speak

Remember

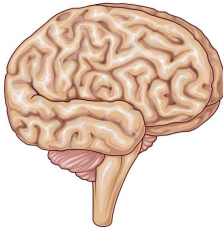
Form complex social relations

38

60



Wrenching transitions: cognitive/social niche

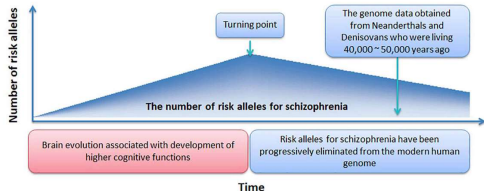


- Dyslexia
- Social anxiety
- Autism
- Schizophrenia
- Biopolar disorder

61

Schizophrenia from the transition to the cognitive-social niche

Did the wrenching transition to the social/cognitive niche make some neutral alleles pathological?



Older genetic variations that might increase the risk of schizophrenia are being selected against

Subsequently, there has been selection for new alleles that reduce the risk of schizophrenia

Liu, C. et al., Front Genet. 2019;10:389

62

Older alleles increase risk, newer alleles decrease risk

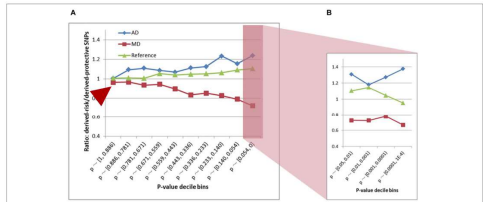
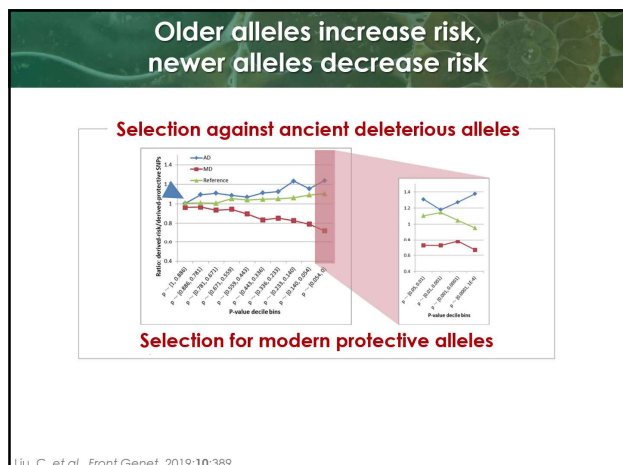


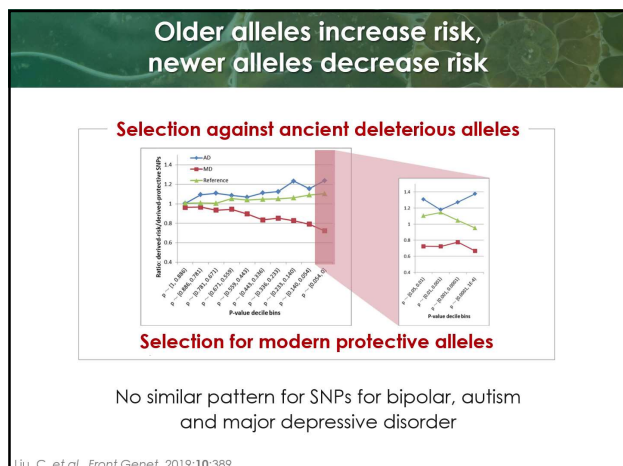
FIGURE 3 | (A) Derived risk/derived protective allele ratios within AD and MD sites. **(B)** An expanded view of the $p < 0.054$ bin. MD = Modern-human specific sites; AD = Archaic-human-specific sites.

Liu, C. et al., Front Genet. 2019;10:389

63



64



65

Scurvy

► Vitamin C was ubiquitous 60 million years ago, so there was no selection pressure to maintain the L-gulonolactone oxidase gene

James Lind

41

66



Scurvy

- ▶ Vitamin C was ubiquitous 60 million years ago, so there was no selection pressure to maintain the L-gulonolactone oxidase gene
- ▶ It has recently been suggested that it wasn't just lack of selection, but that loss of that gene may have increased the ability to store fat

67

Why billions of years for complex organisms to emerge?

Infection

Small organisms evolve faster than the larger ones that they eat

Cancer

Cells that replicate faster are selected for even if they harm the individual
Enforcing cooperation is a huge challenge

42

68

Infection: we are vulnerable because...

Pathogens evolve 10,000x faster

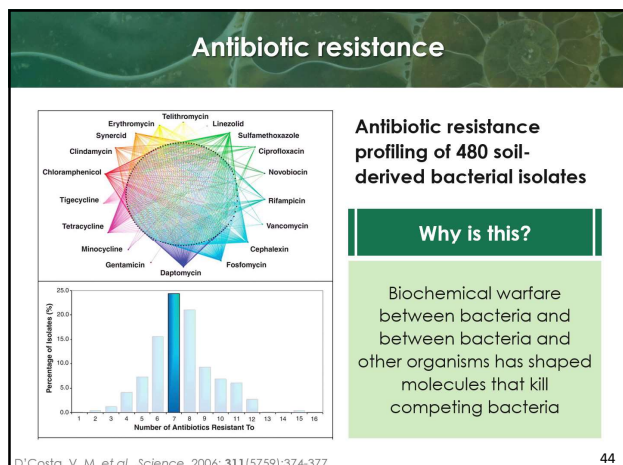
Astounding that bodies control them

They are shaped to maximize spread

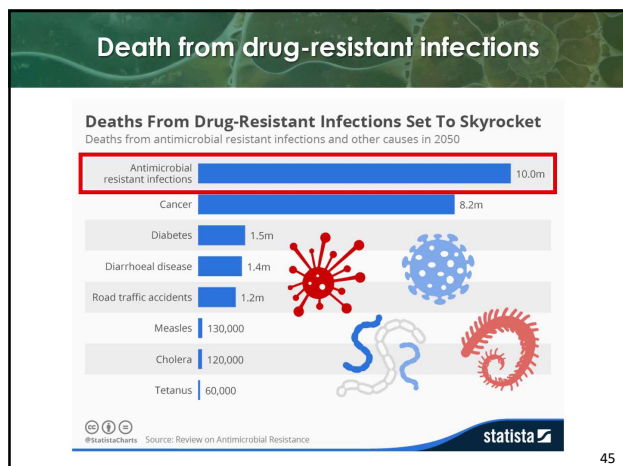
Mode of transmission matters

43

69



70



71

Take every pill in the bottle?

Andrew Read

May cause faster development of antibiotic resistance

46

72



Revised recommendation

BMJ 2017;358:j3418 doi: 10.1136/bmj.j3418 (Published 2017 July 26)

Page 1 of 5

ANALYSIS

The antibiotic course has had its day

With little evidence that failing to complete a prescribed antibiotic course contributes to antibiotic resistance, it's time for policy makers, educators, and doctors to drop this message, argue Martin Llewelyn and colleagues

No mention of prior work

No mention of 'evolution'

Llewelyn, M. J. et al., BMJ, 2017; 358:j3418

47

73

Cancer:
why aren't we protected?

We **are**!

Astoundingly well

But trade-offs limit protection

48

74

Peto's Paradox proves strong
selection against cancer

Josh Schiffman

Why do elephants with 10,000x more cells
than a mouse have less cancer?

He predicted that the p53 genes that cause
cells to self-destruct may play a role in this

49

75

The screen versions of these slides have full details of copyright and acknowledgements



Reproductive patterns are different now

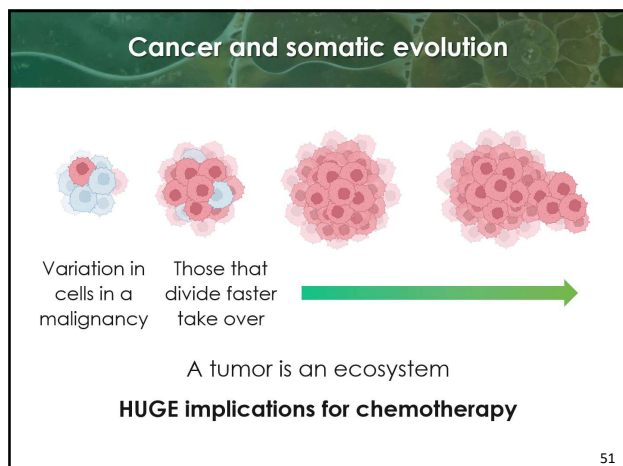
50

Rapidly increasing rates of breast cancer are associated with incessant ovulation, excess nutrition and decreased breast feeding

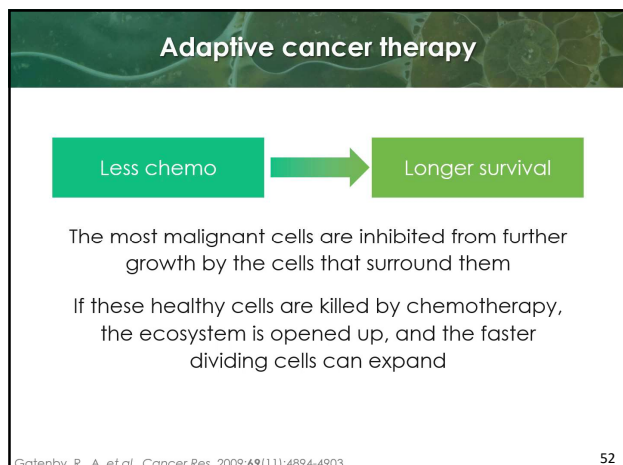
	USA	Dogon (Mali)
Age at menarche	12	17
Age at first pregnancy	26	19
Lifetime menses	400+	100
Never pregnant	17%	1%

Strassmann, B. I. J Womens Health. 1999; 8(2):193-202

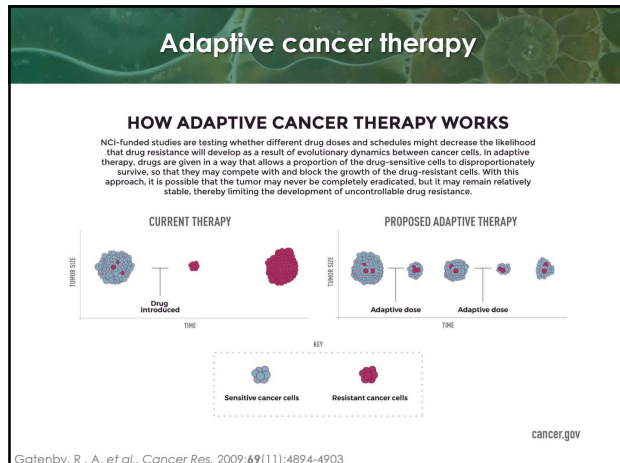
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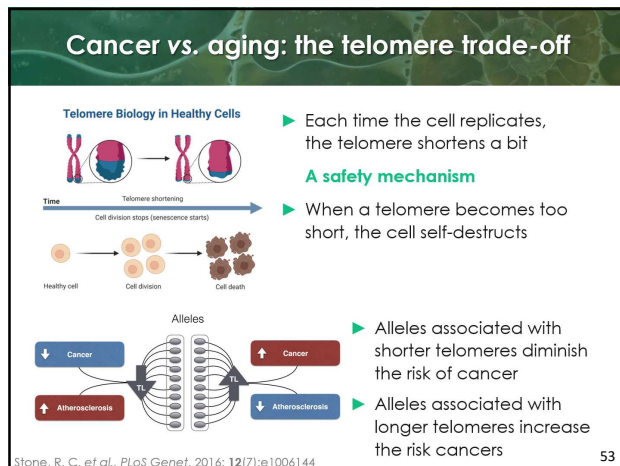
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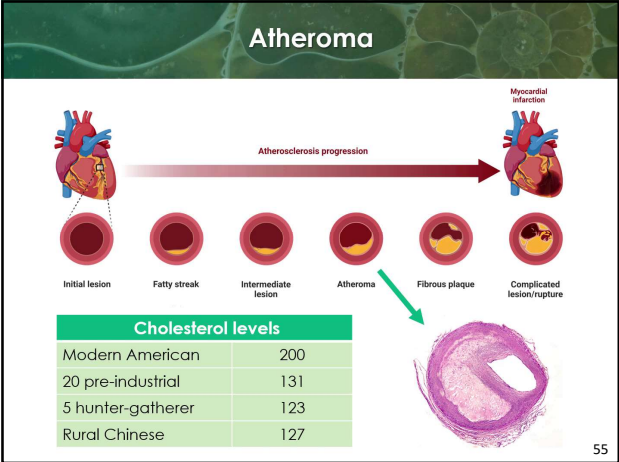
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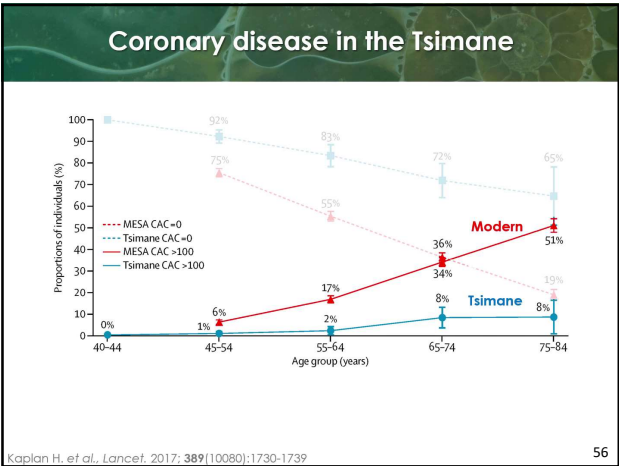
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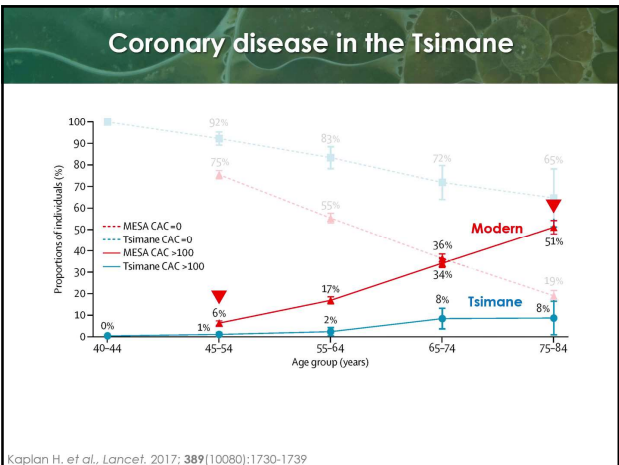
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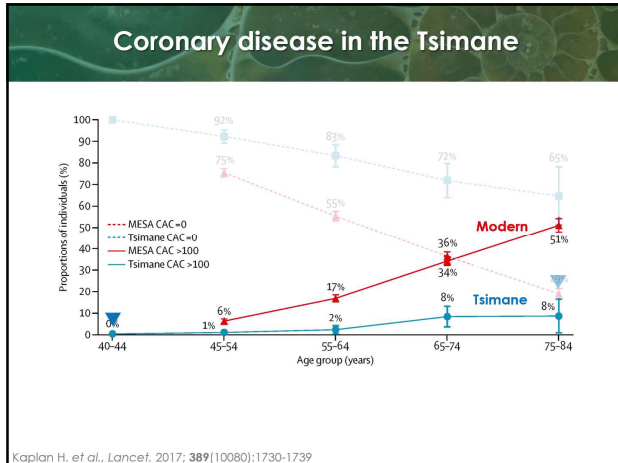
82



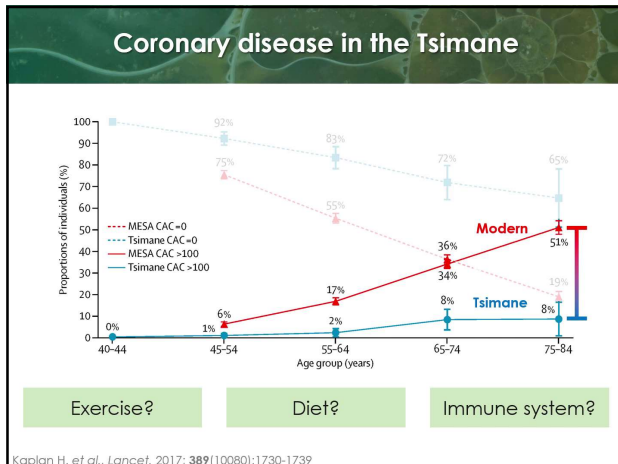
83



84



85



86

Obesity and diet

There's no such thing as 'the normal diet'

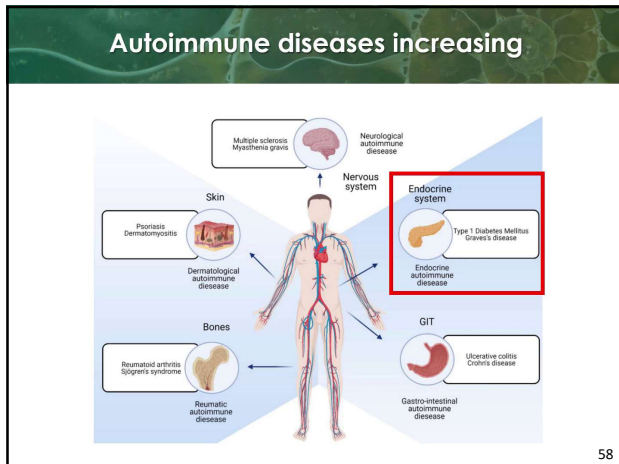
But most of us eat very abnormal diets!

57

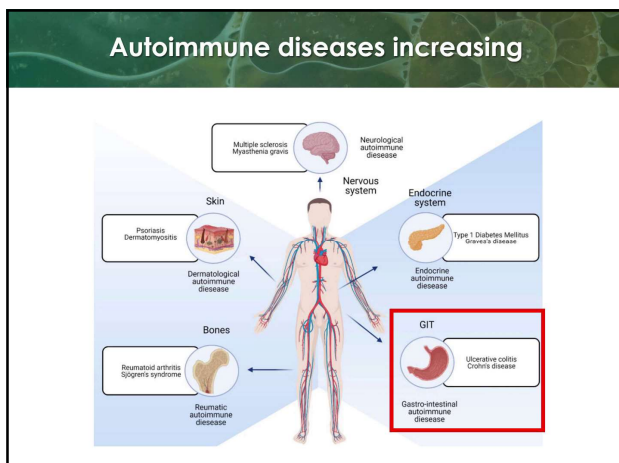
87



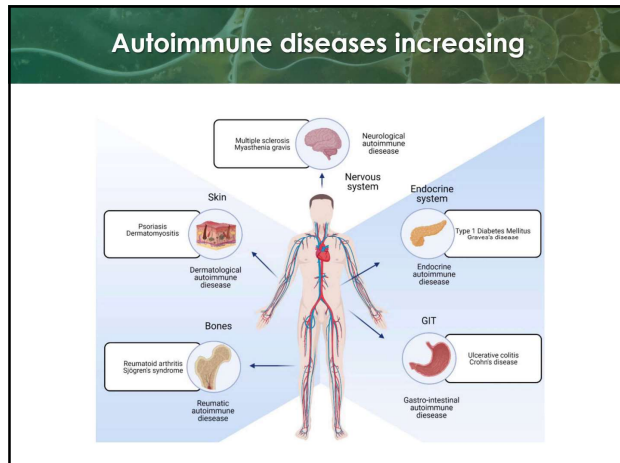
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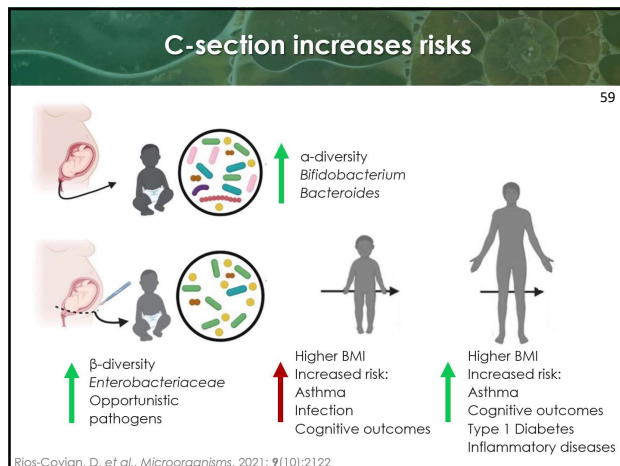
89



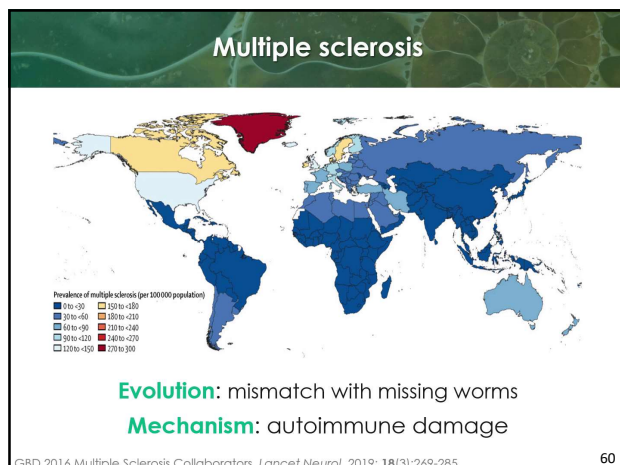
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Helminths protect against multiple sclerosis

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Association Between Parasite Infection and Immune Responses in Multiple Sclerosis

Jorge Correale, MD, and Mauricio Farez, MD

Individuals uninfected by worms were much more likely to have multiple sclerosis, while those infected by worms were unlikely to suffer from exacerbations

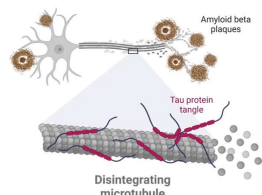
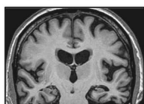
Correale, J. and Farez, M. *Ann Neurol.* 2007; 61(2):97-108

61

94

Why amyloid beta?

Alzheimer's brain



Amyloid beta interacts with Tau to cause plaques/ tangles that interact with the complement system and immune system to kill off neurons, eventually causing Alzheimer's disease

62

95

Why amyloid beta?

It's a fine antimicrobial

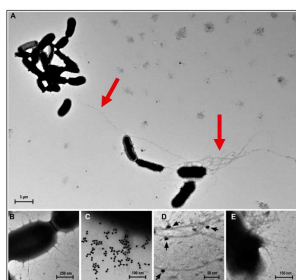
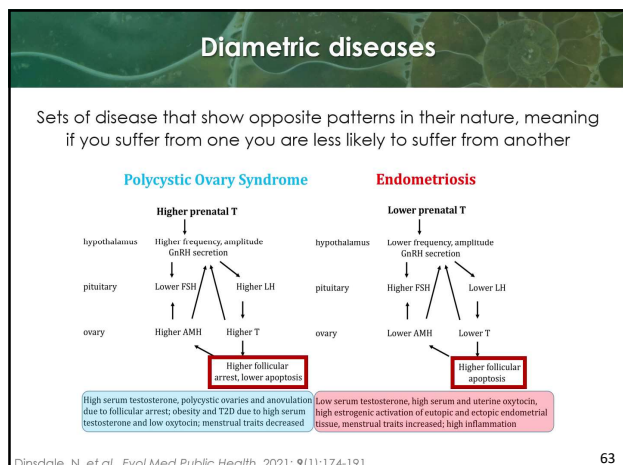


Fig. 4. β -Amyloid fibrils propagate from yeast surfaces and capture *Candida* in 1H-AP42 medium.

Kumar, D. K. V. et al. *Sci Transl Med.* 2016; 8(340):340ra72

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Painful symptoms

Why such excess?

They are useful

Optimal systems have false alarms

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Defenses vs. defects

Defects	Defenses
Seizures	Fever
Cancer	Cough
Paralysis	Pain
Jaundice	Anxiety
Injury	Depression

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Panic disorder

A false alarm in the fight-flight response



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How loud a noise before you flee?

Cost of fleeing
100 calories

Cost of not fleeing if there is a lion
100,000 calories

Optimum
Flee whenever $p(\text{lion}) > 1/1000$

999/1000 panic attacks will be unnecessary, **but normal**

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The smoke detector principle

False alarms are essential



This is why we can block pain, anxiety, cough and fever safely

Except when the defense is needed

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Complex genetic diseases

Why didn't selection eliminate the alleles?

- Mutation selection balance
- Balancing selection
- Antagonistic pleiotropy

Genetic 'quirks' harmful only in modern environments

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Highly heritable diseases are mostly caused by environments

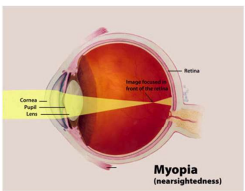
“ Their widespread dispersion indicates that [common risk] alleles are benign... so if they are associated with disease the causal finger actually points to recent environmental change rather than primarily to genetic etiology ”

Weiss, 2008, p1750

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Myopia



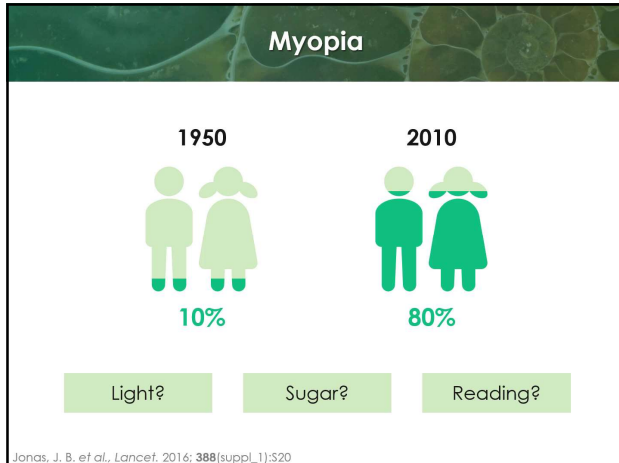
$h^2 = 0.8$ but rapid increase

So why didn't natural selection eliminate these alleles?

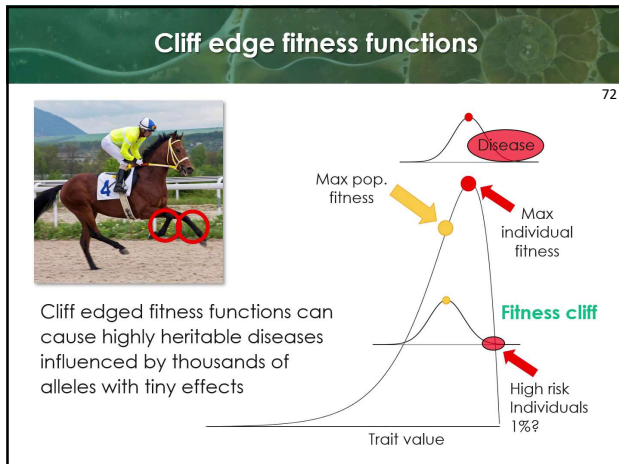
Myopia was rare in hunter-gatherers so there was no selection against it

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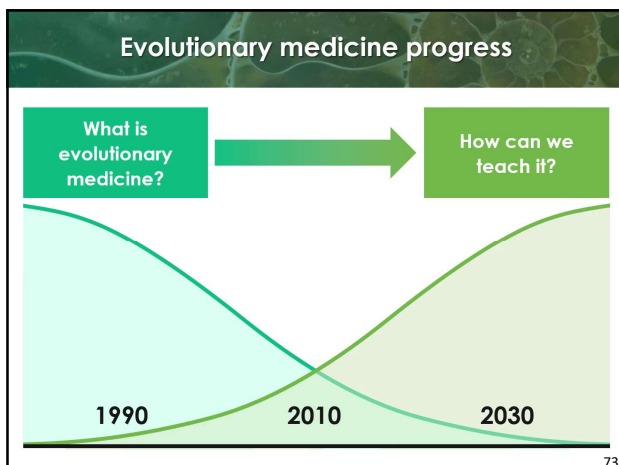
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Evolution: a basic science for medicine

Supplement to

PNAS

Evolution in Health and Medicine

Nesse, R. M. et al., PNAS, 2010; 107(suppl_1):1800-1807

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Evolution: a basic science for medicine

PNAS

Making evolutionary biology a basic science for medicine

Randolph M. Nesse^{1,2}, Carl T. Bergstrom³, Peter T. Ellison⁴, Jeffrey S. Flier⁵, Peter Gluckman⁶, Diddahally R. Govindaraju⁷, Dietrich Niethammer⁸, Gilbert S. Omenn⁹, Robert L. Perlmutter¹⁰, Mark D. Schwartz¹¹, Mark G. Thomas¹², Stephen C. Stearns¹³, and David Valle¹⁴

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Nesse, R. M. et al., PNAS, 2010; 107(suppl_1):1800-1807

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EvMed teaching

Grunspan, et al., 2019

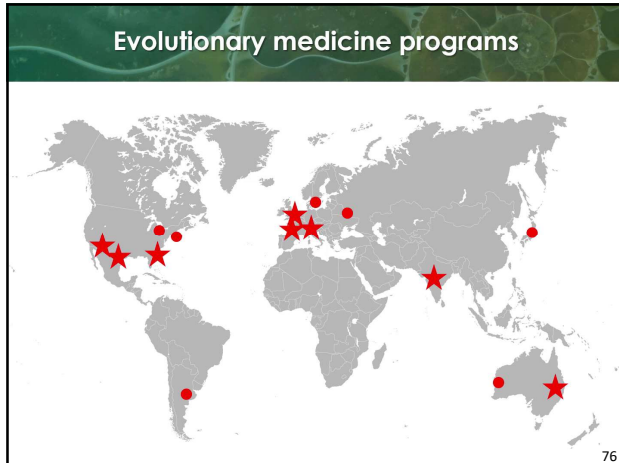
R1 schools with courses on evolution and medicine

R1 schools teaching evolution and medicine

Currently no medical school teaches evolutionary medicine as a basic science
It's going to take time but there is hope for the future

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Conclusion

01. Evolutionary biology is finally becoming a basic science for medicine
02. The over 50 Henry Stuart talks in this series offer a superb introduction
03. The International Society for Evolution, Medicine and Public Health offers more

For more, visit RandolphNesse.com and ISEMPH.org

For further information, please see the Links tab

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