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## THE EXPOSOME IN HUMAN EVOLUTION: FROM DUST TO DIESEL

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### KEYWORDS

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### ABSTRACT

*Global exposures to air pollution and cigarette smoke are novel in human evolutionary history and are associated with about 16 million premature deaths per year. We investigate the history of the human exposome for relationships between novel environmental toxins and genetic changes during human evolution in six phases. Phase I: With increased walking on savannas, early human ancestors inhaled crustal dust, fecal aerosols, and spores; carrion scavenging introduced new infectious pathogens. Phase II: Domestic fire exposed early Homo to novel toxins from smoke and cooking. Phases III and IV: Neolithic to preindustrial Homo sapiens incurred infectious pathogens from domestic animals and dense communities with limited sanitation. Phase V: Industrialization introduced novel toxins from fossil fuels, industrial chemicals, and tobacco at the same time infectious pathogens were diminishing. Thereby, pathogen-driven causes of mortality were replaced by chronic diseases driven by sterile inflammogens, exogenous and endogenous. Phase VI: Considers future health during global warming with increased air pollution and infections. We hypothesize that adaptation to some ancient toxins persists in genetic variations associated with inflammation and longevity.*

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INTRODUCTION

AS human ancestors diverged from great apes, they encountered additional environmental hazards: increased savanna mineral dust and fecal aerosols; pathogens from decaying carrion; smoke from domestic fire; new pathogens from domesticated animals in the Neolithic; and, in the Industrial Age, airborne toxins from fossil fuels and tobacco. During these phases, humans also evolved larger brains and extended life histories with prolonged maturation and longer life spans, as discussed below. Genetic adaptations acquired during these six million years are analyzed in terms of the novel toxins from exogenous and endogenous sources. Table 1 outlines sequential phases of the expanding human exposome, in which new environmental hazards are cumulatively added to those from prior phases. These new exposures need not have occurred at the same time in all human populations, and should not be considered as hard boundaries for the phases.

The exposome concept was introduced by Wild (2005, 2012) for comprehensive analysis of environmental and lifestyle factors in cancer. The exposome extends prior epidemiologic approaches that characterized indi-

vidual factors, “one by one” and has become widely adapted to approach interactions of multiple exogenous and endogenous toxins across the lifetime (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2017). Wild (2012) identified three domains: the *exogenous macrolevel* (rural versus urban; social stratification); the *exogenous individual* (diet, infections); and the *endogenous* (biomes, fat depots, injuries). The exposome includes all stages of life history, from prefertilization gametes to development and later life. We focus on genes of host defense and brain development during the evolution of the long human life span with its uniquely prolonged postreproductive phase.

Evolutionary inquiry of the human exposome illuminates unexplored domains of inflammatory processes in the evolution of the lungs and brain that may inform the future of human health and longevity during global warming. Inflammatory responses are near ubiquitous in human adaptations to these exposures. Many inflammatory responses to airborne toxins from cigarettes and fossil fuels are shared with the pathophysiology of chronic diseases associated with modern air pollution. We hypothesize that adaptation to ancient airborne toxins may be recognized

TABLE 1  
*Phases in the human exposome*

Exposome phase, species/ life expectancy, age	Exposome cumulative progression	Chemistry
IA. Pre- <i>Homo</i> /25 y 5–2.5 MYA	<i>Dust (mineral), pollen; endotoxins from herd animals; increased carrion pathogens</i>	Iron and other toxic metals
IB. Early <i>Homo</i> /30 y 2.5–1 MYA		
II. Early <i>Homo</i> /30 y 1–0.3 MYA	Dust, pollen, endotoxins, carrion pathogens; <i>plus domestic biomass smoke and charred meat</i>	Toxic metals; <i>plus PAH</i>
III. <i>H. sapiens</i> /35–45 y Paleo- to pre-Neolithic 0.3 MYA–10,000 BP	Dust, feces, endotoxins, smoke, charred meat; <i>plus human feces</i>	Toxic metals, PAH; <i>plus endotoxins, infections</i>
IV. <i>H. sapiens</i> /35–45 y Neolithic 10,000–200 YA	Dust, smoke, charred meat, human feces; <i>plus high-density populations, domestic animal feces, new infections</i>	Toxic metals, PAH; <i>plus new endotoxins, antigens</i>
V. <i>H sapiens</i> /50–85 y Industrial 1820–2020	Dust, smoke, charred meat, human and animal feces, infections; <i>plus fossil fuels, industrial toxins, sugar, tobacco</i>	Toxic metals, NH <sub>4</sub> , PAH, endotoxins, infections; <i>plus adiposity, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NOx, SOx</i>
VI. Future 21st–22nd centuries <i>H. sapiens</i> /35–90 y global warming and coastal inundation	Dust, smoke, charred meat, feces, infections, fossil fuels, industrial toxins; <i>plus higher O<sub>3</sub>, crustal dust, insect-borne infections, migrations, water shortages</i>	Transition metals, PAH, NH <sub>4</sub> , endotoxins, infections, O <sub>3</sub> , NOx, SOx; <i>plus increased O<sub>3</sub>, glycoxidation, PAH, temperature</i>

New factors in each phase are italicized.

in modern genetic variations, including the genotypes of cigarette survivors who may have genetic resistance to cigarette aerosols.

Inflammation has become an environmental byword because inflammatory responses are broadly stimulated by molecular damage. We discriminate two broad classes of inflammatory stimulæ: *pathogen-driven inflammation* from infectious viruses, microbes, and parasites versus *sterile inflammation* from noninfectious toxins and stressors such as cigarette smoke or fat depots (Crimmins and Finch 2006; Finch and Kulminski 2019; Phase V). Some inflammatory responses are shared by infectious pathogenic and sterile inflammogens, as in the toll-like receptor (TLR4) pathway responses to bacterial lipopolysaccharides (LPSs) and urban air pollution particles (Woodward et al. 2017). The many TLR pathways are critical to innate immune responses (“911 standby”), but also to the slower adaptive immune responses targeting specific antigens. Innate immune genes are prominent among the evolved genetic accommodations in the context of adaptive resistance to pathogens and survival of injury. Furthermore, neurodevelopmental processes employ innate immune mechanisms during brain maturation. Building from these established findings, we suggest how evolved immune genes may have interacted with new brain genes (Figure 1).

#### EXPOSOME PHASE I: SAVANNA AEROSOLS EXPANDING EXPOSURE TO DUST, POLLEN, ENDOTOXINS, AND CARRION PATHOGENS

The African environment has undergone major changes in the last 10 million years throughout its vast area (Cerling et al. 2011). The shrinking of the Tethys Sea 7–11 MYA caused major shifts in the African summer monsoon (Larrasoña et al. 2013; Zhang et al. 2014). The resulting aridification of northern Africa eventually formed the Sahara desert 7 MYA (Zhang et al. 2014). As many diverse forests gradually became wooded grasslands and savannas, those major changes in landscape altered diet, behavior, and foraging territories (Larrasoña et al. 2013). *Saehanthropus tchadensis* (6–7 MYA), which lived

in diverse environments near the southern edge of the Sahara, showed early evidence of bipedalism (Brunet et al. 2002). Later hominins, including *Ardipithecus ramidus* (approximately 4.4 MYA), inhabited a primarily forest and wooded grassland paleoecology (White et al. 2009).

Major aridification in East Africa during the last three million years has particular relevance to the emergence of *Homo* (Finch 2012). Early habitats gradually shifted from closed canopy forest to open grass- and shrubland savannas (Feakins et al. 2005; Bonnefille 2010; Cerling et al. 2011). Savanna grasses generally rely on wind pollination, and thus produced more pollen than tropical trees that rely on insect or animal pollination (Dupont and Wyputta 2003). Thus, novel sources of pollen exposure may have increased as grasslands expanded. Arid areas are also major sources of dust (Prospero et al. 2002). The aridification the East African hominin sites is amply documented by an increase in windblown dust reaching marine sediments (deMenocal 1995) and by the carbon isotope ratios in paleosols that distinguish woodlands and grasslands (Sikes 1994; Cerling et al. 2011; Rowan and Reed 2015; Lüdecke et al. 2018). These changes in foliage were complex and regionally diverse, involving Southern Africa and the upper Rift Valley (Levin et al. 2011). Most hominid sites were within extensive woodlands (approximately 40%; Reed 1997; Cerling et al. 2011; Rowan and Reed 2015). Poor preservation of bones in forests limits knowledge of our early ancestors and their environmental conditions.

After 3 MYA in the Rift Valley, hominins were exposed to seasonal surges in airborne dust and pollen (Wood and Lonergan 2008; White et al. 2009). Fossil evidence suggests expanding populations of bovines and rodents 2.7–1.7 MYA with evidence of arid-adaptation as early as 2.7 MYA (Vrba et al. 1995; Bobe and Behrensmeyer 2004). The expanding savanna bovine population would have increased exposure to airborne fecal bacteria and endotoxins. Although simultaneously increasing aerobic capacity with shifting lung morphology, early hominids were exposed to novel aerosols, including dust, seasonal pollen, and fecal endotoxins from herbivore

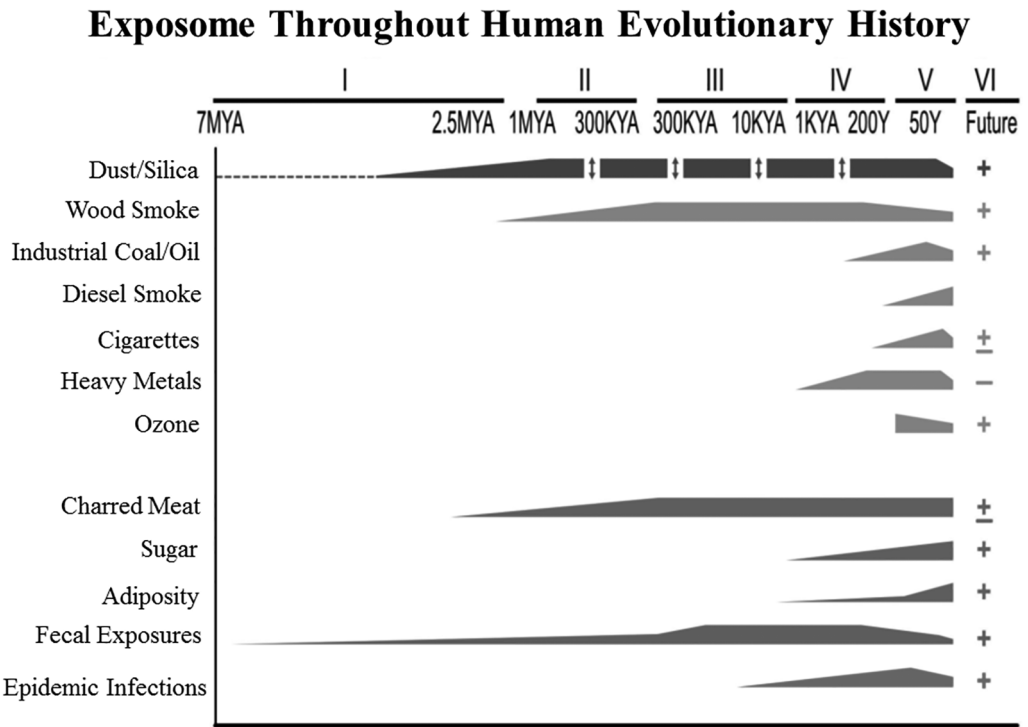


FIGURE 1. NOVEL ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES DURING HUMAN EVOLUTION  
MYA: million years ago. Phases I–V are summarized in Table 1. The time trends are approximations. Dust/silica, based on deMenocal 1995, and Martínez-García et al. 2011; ozone, from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1980–2012; industrial coal/oil, U.S. data, see Figure 6. See text for background on other curves. See the online edition for a color version of this figure.

herds. The greater daily locomotion in the increasingly arid environments would have also exposed early hominids to novel levels of aerosols from seasonal dust, pollen, and airborne fecal microbiota of herd animals. Airborne dust in Asia and Africa has speciose microbiota with viable bacteria at densities up to  $10^6/\text{m}^3$  (Hara and Zhang 2012; Yahya et al. 2019).

BIPEDALITY, LUNG EVOLUTION,  
AND AEROSOL EXPOSURES

These environmental changes increased demands on many physiological functions associated with foraging and predator avoidance, from locomotion to thermoregulation and new toxins in the respiratory and digestive systems (Kaplan et al. 2000; Finch 2012; Wessling et al. 2018). Besides novel levels of aerosols,

we note potential increased exposure to xenobiotics from tubers, as evidenced by modern chimpanzee use of tools for tuber digging (Hernandez-Aguilar et al. 2007).

During these major shifts in ecology and food niches, hominids were evolving bipedality (Passey et al. 2010). We propose that bipedalism and increasing lung capacity added further inflammatory challenges from inhaled particles during these environmental shifts.

Quadrupedal movement is efficient for short distances and especially for arboreal movement. However, as woodlands gave way to savannas, the energetic and time costs of slow-moving quadrupedal gait would have increased risk of predation for chimpanzee ancestors less able to escape to trees. Large felids, hyena, and wild dogs are known to prey on chimpanzees on the ground (Tutin et al. 1981; Tsukahara 1993; Boesch and

Boesch-Achermann 2000; Zuberbühler and Jenny 2002). Slow-moving inefficient quadrupeds are easy prey in open savanna.

Bipedal movement in chimps requires more O<sub>2</sub> than quadrupedal movement shown for running (Pontzer et al. 2014). The chimpanzee quadrupedal gait imposed anatomical constraints on diaphragm and lung size (Schmid et al. 2013; Latimer et al. 2016). This constraint was overcome by the early bipedal *Australopithecus sediba* (Schmid et al. 2013) and *A. afarensis* (Latimer et al. 2016). The larger human lung volume is commensurate with the fourfold or greater daily walking distance of indigenous humans (Hadza, Tsimané) than wild chimpanzees (rainforest, savannas; Table 2). Most organs scale to body size: allometry predicts the human lung should be larger than the chimpanzee, but cannot explain shape changes in rib cage size and volume. Chimpanzees have a more funnel-shaped rib cage than humans. Our barrel-shaped rib cage with greater caudal width evolved, together with a more powerful diaphragm (Bastir et al. 2017). The larger ratio of upper to lower thorax may indicate higher arterial oxygen partial pressure in hominids than chimpanzees (Chan 2014). *A. afarensis* had an intermediate chest shape of greater caudal width than chimpanzee, and closer to *Homo* (Haile-Selassie et al. 2010).

Ergonomic analysis of fossils suggests that the skeletal capacity for long-stride endurance running may be unique to the genus *Homo*: no great ape or other primate has the capacity for endurance running or extended walking (Carrier et al. 1984; Bramble and

Lieberman 2004; Pontzer et al. 2010; Ruxton and Wilkinson 2011). The evolution of long-distance running is considered adaptive for human scavenging and hunting (Zhang et al. 2014). The larger human lung may have coevolved with more efficient bipedal locomotion as antipredator defenses as well as freeing hands and increasing daily range (Kaplan et al. 2000). Increased breathing capacity in the hominin lineage may have supported long-stride walking and running: humans have five- to tenfold more eccrine glands on major body surfaces than chimp and macaque (Kamberov et al. 2018), together with higher capillary density and eccrine gland glycogen (Best and Kamilar 2018). Hair follicle density, however, does not differ between human and chimpanzee in most body surfaces (Kamberov et al. 2018). Lacking archeological evidence for eccrine gland density in early hominins, it may still be possible to identify the timing of origins for genes of species-specific sweat gland development (Lu et al. 2016; Yao et al. 2019). The greater aerobic throughput also exposed early hominids to novel aerosols, including dust, seasonal pollen, and fecal endotoxins from herbivore herds. These aerosols can cause pulmonary inflammation and infections in modern populations. Specifically, silica dust inhalation can cause chronic lung inflammation and pulmonary fibrosis, as well as autoimmune disorders (Thakur et al. 2008).

Seasonal dust causes significant respiratory distress. For example, during desert dust episodes in Greece, an increase of 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter smaller than 10 µm

TABLE 2  
*Respiratory characteristics of chimpanzees versus humans and bipedal ancestor*

	Human	<i>Australopithecus sediba</i>	Chimpanzee
Tidal volume, mL	596 ± 81.4		420 ± 63.4 <sup>a</sup>
Lung weight, g	1117 ± 314		
Respiratory area index	30.5 ± 1.6	32.9 <sup>d</sup>	27.2 ± 1.5 <sup>d</sup>
Daily walking	Hadza 12.2km/d <sup>b</sup> Tsimané, 18 km/d <sup>c</sup>		Forest 2.1 ± 0.06 km/d <sup>e</sup> Savanna 3.3 ± 0.1 km/d <sup>f</sup>

Respiratory area index: size-standardized to 4th rib respiratory area.

<sup>a</sup>Nishimura et al. 2016.

<sup>b</sup>Pontzer et al. 2015.

<sup>c</sup>Gurven et al. 2013; Trumble et al. 2014.

<sup>d</sup>Schmid et al. 2013.

<sup>e</sup>Pontzer and Wrangham 2004, wild chimpanzees Kanyawara/Kibale community, Uganda.

<sup>f</sup>Wessling 2011; Jill D. Preutz (pers. comm.), Fongoli savanna, Senegal.

diameter) was associated with a doubling of emergency room visits for respiratory conditions (Trianti et al. 2017). Fecal aerosols from herd animals involve different hazards, which may be modeled by the loss of lung volume (vital capacity) in California dairy workers in proportion to cattle fecal aerosol density, measured as endotoxin per  $\text{m}^3$  (Mitchell et al. 2015). Dairy workers exposed to high levels of cattle feces faced a 50% higher exposure to small aerosolized particles ( $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ), as well as twofold more exposure to endotoxins than the control group. Those in the highest quartile of endotoxin exposure per work shift had a 10% loss in lung capacity (24.5 mL reduction; Mitchell et al. 2015). Such high endotoxin levels likely exceed those of ancient savanna aerosols; however, agricultural workers frequently incur chronic bronchitis and airflow limitation (Guillien et al. 2019). As noted above, dust of African origin has high levels of viable microbes (Yahya et al. 2019).

Environmental variability and aridification also brought changes in flora resulting in novel exposures to pollens (Reed 1997; Potts 1998; Lüdecke et al. 2018). Pollen is generally considered in the class of coarse particles ( $\text{PM}_{10}$  to  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ; Kelly and Fussell 2012). Although we cannot know the species or pollen load (Carrion and Scott 1999), major variations in pollen density are documented during Phase I (Potts 1998; Domínguez-Rodrigo et al. 2001).

Seasonal droughts also required novel behavioral strategies, including migration for water. For example, seasonal migration occurred in both contemporary East Africa (Afifi et al. 2014) and precontact Australia (Webb 2009). Seasonal pursuit of water seems likely to increase dust inhalation together with increased walking.

In summary, the exposome of the common human-chimpanzee ancestor was less complex than ancient humans because the wooded environments were less exposed to savanna mineral dust and endotoxins and particulate matter from ungulate feces (Finch 2012). Increasing presence on savannas would have brought novel exposures to aerobic toxins. We discuss below how the immune system gene may have evolved to cope with the increased inhalation of dust, pollen, and bacteria in fecal aerosols.

Besides inhaled materials, Phase I exposed early humans to additional hazards from carrion scavenging and increased meat-eating. Human adaptations to these novel toxicants may be represented in the numerous gene mutations recently identified from genomic comparisons of modern and ancient humans with chimpanzees (Figure 2; Table 3). Genes of host defense and innate immunity are discussed for the successive exposome phases. Some of these genes are expressed in brain tissues and may have interacted with brain evolution. These genes were chosen because of plausible roles during specific phases of the exposome and because estimates were available for their time in evolution. Discussion of these genes is necessarily speculative. Few of these mutations can be proven as adaptive in the strict sense recognized for the recently evolved malarial resistance genes.

Chimpanzee life spans are shorter than humans in modern and preindustrial populations. Although menopause occurs at about the same age (Hawkes and Smith 2010; Herndon et al. 2012), the chimpanzee post-reproductive life span is much shorter than in all human populations. Although one chimpanzee community (Ngogo, 1996–20) is noted for much lower mortality rates approaching those of indigenous people (Wood et al. 2017), nonetheless, its 1.5-year life expectancy at age 65 was still much below that of the Tsimané of Bolivia at 8.5 years (Gurven et al. 2007). Another key species difference is the young adult mortality rate per year of chimpanzees, which is 35% greater than for traditional humans living under limited hygiene (Finch 2010; Gurven and Davison 2019). This human advantage may derive from evolved immune functions and stronger nurturing behaviors.

A limitation to understanding environmental hazards in human evolution is the unknown burden of infections and chronic disease in hominin ancestors—few physical remains of soft tissues allow the study of ancient infections. Alternatively, we can learn from infections of feral chimpanzees in comparison with indigenous people living under traditional preindustrial conditions of hygiene and medicine. Infections cause more than 50% of adult deaths of feral chimpanzees



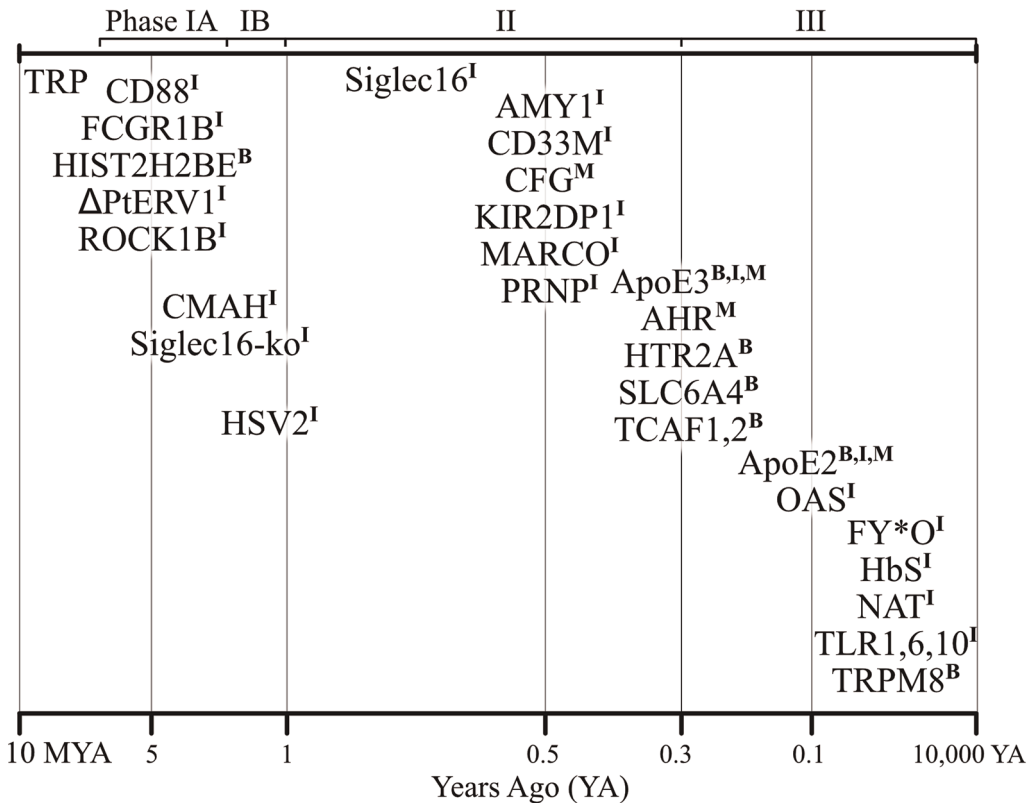


FIGURE 2. GENETIC CHANGES IN EXPOSOME PHASES I–III  
Superscripts identify gene function. B: brain-behavior; I: immunity; M: metabolism. Genes are briefly described in Table 3.

and traditional humans (Table 4). Chimpanzee infections and mortality patterns vary widely in association with ecological variations, human intrusions, and infectious episodes (Wood et al. 2017). Most mortality of young adult chimpanzees is attributed to infections, but it is unknown how their infections compare with traditional humans without modern medications and limited hygiene.

Data are limited because sampling is largely based on fecal analysis, which requires consecutive samplings of the same individual (Muehlenbein and Watts 2010) and because of infections introduced by human intrusions and habitat degradation with expanded farming and exposure to domestic animals (McLennan et al. 2017). We must assume that all sampled chimpanzee populations have had direct or indirect exposure to

transmissible pathogens from humans and domestic animals.

Several examples show the potential for bidirectional cross-species pathogen transmission. In samples of nearly 300 for each host species, *Entamoeba* enteric species were detected in 66% of chimpanzees and 60% of humans within the Gombe ecosystem, while the diarrhea-causing *Entamoeba histolytica* was in 34% of chimpanzees and 12% of humans (Deere et al. 2019). Respiratory viruses in Kibale chimpanzees show human origins: metapneumovirus (MPV), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and rhinovirus-C (RV-C; Emery Thompson et al. 2018). Parasitic gastrointestinal worms in chimpanzees also infect neighboring humans (*Enterobius*, *Trichuris*; Ebbert et al. 2015). We lack population-based data for parasite prevalence in these local human

TABLE 3  
*Gene timelines*

Abbreviation	Full gene name; species; function	Phase, MYA*
AMY1	$\alpha$ -amylase 1, salivary enzyme; expanded gene copy number after split from <i>Homo heidelbergensis</i>	II, undated
ApoE	Apolipoprotein E, lipid transport in blood and brain; three common alleles: ApoE2,-E3,-E4; ApoE4 is ancestral and undated; Alzheimer disease risk	Pre-III, undated
	ApoE3, early <i>H. sapiens</i> , 0.25 MYA	III, 0.23
	ApoE2, spread after 0.1 MYA; not in Neandertals and Denisovans	III, 0.1
AHR	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor, detoxification of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); human-specific mutation V381A, not in Neandertals	III, post-0.5
CD33M	Immune cell membrane protein, alternate name, Siglec-3; human, not Neandertal; Alzheimer's disease risk	III, 0.5
CD88 (C5)	Complement factor C5, innate immunity, anaphylactic peptides	IA, 5.2
CFG	"Cooked food genes": rat liver genes with differential expression for cooked versus raw food: MARCO and tnfrs11a; pre-Neandertals and Denisovans	II, 0.28–0.77
CMAH	Cytidine monophosphate-N-acetylneuraminic acid hydroxylase; innate immunity; gene was inactivated pre- <i>Homo</i>	IB, 2.5–3
CYP1A1, CYP1B1	Cytochrome P450 family of enzymes, catabolize steroids and PAHs; gene is downstream of AHR; chimps, Neandertals, Denisovans, and humans	Pre-I, undated
DPEP1	Dipeptidase 1, regulates blood homocysteine; Neandertal introgression	II, undated
FCGR1B, C, D	Fc fragment of immunoglobulin (IgG) receptor (high affinity), also CD64	
	FCGR1B	IA, 5.0
	FCGR1C	IB, 2.4
	FCGR1D	II, 1.2
FY*O	Malarial resistance gene of Duffy blood group antigens; alternate name, ACKR1 antigen; encodes chemokine receptors used by malarial parasites	III, 0.042
HTR2A	Serotonin (5-HT) receptor; influences foraging behavior	II, 0.33
HbS	Hemoglobin, sickle cell variant	III, 0.022
KIR	Natural killer cell receptors distinct from KIR ion channels; six KIR are human-specific; KIR2DP1 inactivated pre-Neandertals	II, pre-0.5
MARCO	Macrophage receptor with collagenous domain; alternate names Class A scavenger receptor (SCARA2) and CD204; phagocytosis of dust and pathogens; human substitution (F282S) absent in Neandertals and Denisovans; 452Q is shared with humans, Neandertals, and Denisovans; see CFG	II, pre-0.5
NAT1,2	N-acetyltransferases-1,-2; detoxify PAHs	III, 0.02
OAS1,2,3	Oligonucleotide adenylate synthase 1,2,3; innate immune, degrade viral RNA; Neandertal introgressed	III, 0.13
PRNP	Prion protein; variants alter infectious prion transmission between species	II, 0.5
$\Delta$ PtERV1	Deletion of genomic retrovirus PtERV1	IA, 4.7
Siglec-3	See CD33M	
Siglec-16	Sialic acid-binding immunoglobulin-like protein-16; inactivated	IB, 3
	Siglec-16 activated by gene conversion	II, 0.8
SCARA2	Scavenger receptor A2, alternate name for MARCO	
SLC6A4	Serotonin (5-HT) receptor (38 kb); new alleles VNRT, LPR-S; aggressive-impulsive behaviors	III, 0.22–0.27
SRGAP2B, SRGAP2C	Slit-Robo Rho GTPase activating proteins, regulate neuron spine density; human-specific gene duplications	IB–II, 2.4–1
TCAF1,2	TRPM8 channel-associated factors 1 and 2; detection of cold by somatosensory neurons; bind to TRPM8 ion channel; cancer metastasis	III, 0.3
TLR1,6,10	Toll-like receptors, innate immunity; TLR1 and TLR6 bind gram-positive bacteria for phagocytosis by macrophages; TLR10, orphan receptor; introgressed archaic alleles from Neandertals and Denisovans	III, undated

*continued*



TABLE 3  
*Continued*

Abbreviation	Full gene name; species; function	Phase, MYA*
tnfrs11a	TNFα-receptor superfamily 11a; cooked food gene (CFG); pre-Neandertals and Denisovans	II, 0.3–0.7
TPE	Tropoelastin; deletion of exons 35, 36; skin elasticity	Pre-I
TRPM8	Transient receptor potential melastatin member 8; response to moderate cold; new allele	III, 0.024
VIP	Virus-interacting proteins; broadly defined, inhibit microbial and viral infections; include Neandertal introgressed sequences	II

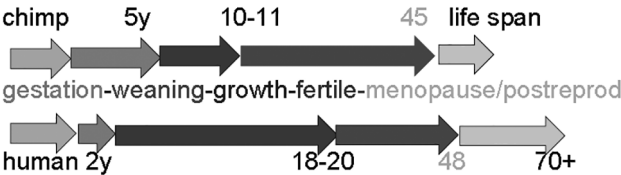
\* MYA, million years ago.

populations. In more comprehensive samples of the Bolivian Tsimané, most adults carried at least one helminth or protozoan parasite, averaging 1.3 species per person (Vasunilashorn et al. 2010; Blackwell et al. 2013, 2015). In Tsimané, diarrhea is also com-

mon (Blackwell et al. 2013, 2016; Rosinger and Tanner 2015). Chimpanzee exposure to their own feces is minimized by daily changes of the night nests that are typically abandoned each morning (Goodall 1986:208; Llorente Caño 2004; Stewart et al. 2011; Finch 2012),

TABLE 4  
*Mortality patterns of chimpanzee and human*

	Chimpanzee, wild	Human, traditional (Tsimané)	Human, 21st century (U.S.)
% Deaths by cause			
Respiratory	15	22	6
Other infections	22	28	<1
Accidents	3	5	5
Homicide + warfare	15	11	<1
Cardiovascular	No data	Low levels	>50
Life expectancy years			
at birth	13–33	30–45	>75
young adult	24–27	42	>50
at menopause	11	20	35
Mortality young adult/yr (minimum adult mortality)	0.03–0.05	<0.02	<0.001



**Cause of Death:** Chimpanzees of Gombe, Mahale, and Taï; seven groups of hunter-gatherers and forager-horticulturalists (Gurven and Kaplan 2007; Gurven and Gomes 2017). Chronic degenerative diseases of aging (cancer, heart disease) are major causes of death in industrialized humans, but are not well defined for chimpanzees or traditional humans. Postmortem findings for older chimpanzees are from captives; there are almost no autopsy data for traditional preindustrial humans. Heart failure of aging chimpanzees is generally nonischemic, based on captives maintained on a healthy diet (Varki et al. 2009). Although coronary artery atherosclerosis is unstudied in wild chimpanzees, aortic atherosclerosis was reported in a small sample of adult wild chimps killed in the Congo (Vastesaeger and Delcourt 1961). However, some early studies noted ischemic deaths in association with elevated cholesterol (Finch and Stanford 2004:Table 3A, Appendix 4). Tsimané also have negligible ischemic deaths, with slower cardiovascular aging than industrial populations (Kaplan et al. 2017).

**Life expectancy:** Young adult chimpanzee (Bronikowski et al. 2016; Wood et al. 2017), human Tsimané (Gurven et al. 2007), and U.S. (National Center for Health Statistics 2016).

**Mortality young adult:** Feral chimpanzee (Bronikowski et al. 2011; Muller and Wrangham 2014; Gurven and Davison 2019); and human traditional and preindustrial (Finch and Crimmins 2004; Finch 2010; Beltrán-Sánchez et al. 2012). Mortality is minimal at age 10–20 years in humans (Finch and Crimmins 2004; Beltrán-Sánchez et al. 2012) and great apes (Gurven and Davison 2019).

and adults fastidiously avoid contact with excreta (Goodall 1986:208). Even so, diarrhea is “common” (Goodall 1986:93–96). There are no quantitative measures of fecal contact in chimpanzees and in traditional subsistence cultures with limited hygiene practices.

Because soft tissues are rarely preserved, we know little about the chronic diseases of human ancestors. Skeletal abnormalities are frequent in Pleistocene remains by comparison with modern samples, and include curvatures and developmental defects (Trinkaus 2018). This sample of 66 individuals, mostly adults from Middle to Late Paleolithic, had defined 75 abnormalities, considered a vastly unprecedented excess. Although one-third of the abnormalities are common today, another third are rare, and the remaining unknown. The etiology may be in part attributable to developmental stress, also indicated by frequent dental enamel hypoplasias in Pleistocene samples (Guatelli-Steinberg et al. 2013).

Bone cancer was reported for several *Australopithecus* species and early *Homo* (Rifkin et al. 2017), but was not mentioned by Trinkaus (2018). Bone cancers are rare in the fossil record until the Bronze Age (Nerlich et al. 2006; Lieveise et al. 2014). Although cancers may have occurred in human ancestors, as in the premodern world, their prevalence cannot be estimated from these haphazard specimens. The same conclusion holds for heart disease, which our team detected as arterial calcification in mummies from ancient Egyptian and other preindustrial populations (Thompson et al. 2013). Again, these samples are not population-based. Contemporary indigenous Tsimané have slowly progressing coronary calcification, but negligible ischemic disease (Kaplan et al. 2017). Provisionally we conclude that the typical modern killers of cancer and atherosclerosis were present throughout human evolution, but caused much less mortality than infections until the end of Phase V.

#### SCAVENGER RECEPTORS ASSOCIATED WITH INHALED PARTICULATE MATTER

The changing of the forest to savanna landscape in East Africa increased the exposure to inhaled dust particles. Two groups

of innate immunity genes are particularly relevant to the novel aerosol exposures of Phase I: cell surface scavenger receptors (SRs) and enzymes of Siglecs, cell surface glycoproteins. The SRs in lung epithelial cells bind to a wide range of inert particles, as well as bacteria. Eight subclasses are recognized by differences in structure and function (classes A–H). Class A scavenger receptors, particularly SR-A I/II (newly designated as CD204) and *Macrophage Receptor with Collagenous Domain* (MARCO; see Figure 2 and Table 3). MARCO mediates phagocytosis of a broad range of substrates by respiratory tract macrophages and epithelial cells (Thakur et al. 2008). Microbial substrates are degraded by subcellular processes, whereas silicates and other minerals resist degradation and accumulate during life (Hamilton et al. 2006; Novakowski 2018).

Ape-hominin comparisons for MARCO show two novel substitutions (Novakowski 2018). Residue 282 is exclusively serine (S) in chimpanzees, while humans have two alleles, the ancestral 282S and the derived allele phenylalanine 282F, which is more prevalent in modern populations. Denisovans and Neandertals had only 282S, like great apes. The apparent absence of 282F in Neandertals or Denisovans suggests its origin by 0.55 MYA; more specimens may show when humans, Neandertals, and Denisovans acquired glutamine (G) in substitution for chimpanzee histidine (G452Q). Both 282 and 452 sites show evidence of positive selection. These coding substitutions altered MARCO functions for ligand binding and phagocytosis in cell assays (Novakowski 2018), in correspondence to the associations of MARCO variants with pulmonary tuberculosis (Bowdish et al. 2013; Thuong et al. 2016). MARCO variants are associated with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and respiratory syncytial virus.

Human-specific MARCO alleles that influence susceptibility to pulmonary tuberculosis arose by 0.5 MYA. Silica-induced lung fibrosis also depends on MARCO expression (Yang et al. 2019), but individual variations in fibrosis have not been examined for a relationship to MARCO variants. MARCO gene regulation is sensitive to crosstalk with diverse stimulæ. In the mouse lung, the MARCO

receptor mRNA was induced fifteenfold by endotoxin (LPS) and twenty-fivefold by combined exposure to LPS plus cigarette smoke, but only threefold by cigarette smoke alone (Meng et al. 2006). Lung cancer risk also shows super-additivity (positive synergy) of cigarette smoke with air pollution aerosols (Turner et al. 2014; Forman and Finch 2018). These examples of immune response cross-talk and synergies to xenobiotics suggest ancient complexities of the expanding human exposome that go beyond single factor effects on health. The seasonal surges of silica dust in the Rift Valley would have increased pulmonary phagocytic demands, with potential consequences to host defense because silica  $\text{SiO}_2$  inhibits responses of scavenger receptors to microbial receptors in alveolar macrophages (Beamer et al. 2016). Moreover, the SR and MARCO enable the phagocytosis of pollen, another seasonal demand. These and other synergies of inhaled environmental toxins (Forman and Finch 2018) suggest that we must consider multiple interactions in evolution of gene responses to the novel scale of inhaled particles by human ancestors.

#### PHASE II–III: WHERE THERE IS SMOKE, THERE IS FIRE

DUST, POLLEN, ENDOTOXINS, AND CARRION  
PATHOGENS; PLUS NOVEL TOXINS FROM  
DOMESTIC SMOKE AND COOKING

Fire was “probably the greatest ever [discovery] made by man, excepting language” (Darwin 1890:54; Wrangham and Carmody 2010). We do not know the earliest controlled use of fire either for warmth, toolmaking, or cooking; hearths do not preserve well, and it is hard to differentiate naturally occurring wild fires from controlled fire use (Gowlett and Wrangham 2013). Controlled and routine use of fire was established by 0.5–0.75 MYA in Europe and Western Asia (Thieme 1997; Goren-Inbar et al. 2004; Wrangham and Carmody 2010; Gowlett and Wrangham 2013). However, earlier controlled use of fire is suggested from archeological sites and gut morphology in Africa between 1–2 MYA (Bellomo 1994; Wrangham and Carmody 2010; Gowlett and Wrangham 2013).

Fire brings many nutritional dietary benefits. Not only does cooking increase the digestibility of cooked food (Carmody and Wrangham 2009; Carmody et al. 2011), but cooking reduces demands for mastication. The MYH16 myosin masticatory gene in jaw muscles was lost before 0.6 MYA (Perry et al. 2015). Cooking and smoke-drying meat also increases its durability during storage by killing bacteria (Smith et al. 2015) and parasites (Perry 2014). However, meat and fish can also be stored safely after bacterial putrefaction that also generates additional nutritional benefits of vitamin C and other micronutrients (Speth 2017). Rotted meat and fish are staples in many traditional diets that may have originated in the Middle Paleolithic.

Cooking fires also produce potentially toxic byproducts of airborne particulate matter and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in smoke, as well as advanced glycation end products (AGEs) from Maillard reaction chemistry, discussed below. Smoke from wild fires became an intermittent exposure in some environments approximately 0.35–0.4 MYA (Doerr and Santín 2016).

#### SMOKE AND COOKING: DETOXIFICATION BY AHR-CYP AND N-ACETYLTRANSFERASE GENES

The increasing use of controlled fire for cooking and warmth also brings airborne smoke with inevitably increased exposure to smoke particles and novel chemical toxins. Mortality from domestic smoke exposure is attributed to chronic lung infections (Smith et al. 2000; Fullerton et al. 2008; Phillips et al. 2018). Exposure to wood smoke can impair antiviral responses of nasal mucosa cells (Rebuli et al. 2019). Domestic smoke exposure during the Pleistocene may have mediated the emergence of tuberculosis, by promoting chronic lung inflammation (Chisholm et al. 2016). Smoke toxins include the large group of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons produced by partial (incomplete) combustion of biomass. PAHs are generally rare in the environment except during sporadic brush or forest fires. The PAHs include benzo(a)pyrene and other proven human carcinogens. Some PAHs are considered neurotoxic from epidemiological and clinical associations of

impaired brain development (Peterson et al. 2015; Finch 2018) from rodent models exposed during gestation to benzo(a)pyrene (McCallister et al. 2008, 2016; Sheng et al. 2010; Geier et al. 2018; Slotkin et al. 2019).

After inhalation or ingestion, PAHs are detoxified by the aryl hydrocarbon receptor protein (AHR), a xenobiotic sensor. In turn, the PAH-activated (ligand-bound) AHR moves to the cell nucleus to alter transcription of catabolic pathway genes including the cytochromes CYP1A1 and CYP1B1. The multifunctional AHR protein is also a xenobiotic barrier against PAH in gut (Liu et al. 2018); prenatally, placental AHR and CYP1A1 proteins are elevated by maternal smoking (Huuskonen et al. 2008). Some AHR products are fully detoxified, while others are carcinogenic. Adaptive responses to PAHs and other xenobiotics include gene variants that detoxify pesticides, shown in fish populations exposed to dioxins and other halogenated aryl hydrocarbons (Aarts et al. 2016; Hubbard et al. 2016; Hahn et al. 2017).

Comparisons of AHR gene evolution in hominids raise further questions. In benchmark experiments, Hubbard et al. (2016) compared the AHR protein of human and Neandertals with cell and biochemical studies of recombinant AHR engineered from bone fossil DNA sequence. The Neandertal AHR protein caused a hundredfold *more* ligand-mediated induction of downstream detoxifying gene CYP1A1 by benzo(a)pyrene. The human AHR gene uniquely substitutes valine for alanine at amino acid 381 (A381V); Neandertals and Denisovans share the primate AHR variant A381, which has reduced affinity for some PAH ligands. Structural modeling shows that A381V alters the ligand-binding pocket for benzo(a)pyrene. Because the AHR-CYP catabolism of PAH produces toxic intermediates, Hubbard et al. (2016) suggest that early *H. sapiens* were more resistant to domestic smoke toxicity than Neandertals. AHR is important in detoxifying response to modern domestic smokes, including responses to cigarette smoke and to domestic dung burning in poor households (see below). The aryl hydrocarbon repressor gene (AHR) merits further evolutionary study. Although human-specific adaptations

to smoke inhalation are retained as common gene variants in modern populations, there is extensive genetic variation within and across populations (Sudmant et al. 2015), and many ancestral alleles are still maintained in populations despite increased risk—for example, cooking-related genes (Phase II) and cigarette smoking survivor-related genes (Phase V).

Other PAH detoxification genes that retain modern variants were identified by Aarts et al. (2016) through bioinformatics analysis. For 80% of the variants, Neandertals and Denisovans had the same ancestral hominid genes (were homozygous for) as the chimpanzee and gorilla. Strikingly, for most genes (23/29), the ancestral allele was considered *more* protective for toxins related to smoke and cooked food than the modern human alleles. For example, Hanna et al. (2000) showed that the main CYP1B1 variant protein of modern humans has one-third less enzyme activity than the ancestral isoform variant shared with chimpanzees, Neandertals, and Denisovans. Caveat: their estrogen hydroxylation assay may not be generalizable to PAHs: although steroids are polycyclic, they differ chemically from PAHs by oxygen content. Another 20% of CYP1B1 polymorphisms are evolutionarily novel: of these, three are associated with lower cancer risks from cigarettes, while the other four increased cancer risk. Data from the 1000 Genomes Project showed that the high- and low-risk alleles in different genes were concurrent. High-risk alleles existed at least 45,000 years ago in *H. sapiens* DNA from Ust'-Ishim (Siberia).

N-acetyltransferases (NAT1, NAT2) are important for xenobiotic catabolism of modern drugs and ancient carcinogens such as PAHs in smoke from burning wood and tobacco (Zhou et al. 2013; Aarts et al. 2016; Vangenot et al. 2019). Because the NAT variants alter cancer risk from cigarette smoke (Matejcic et al. 2015; Sabbagh et al. 2018) and red meat (Wang et al. 2015), we suggest that NAT variants also modulate toxicity of domestic smoke from biomass burning used for cooking and warmth. Human NAT2 has single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) at three coding sites with wide global variations (Lakkakula et al.

2014). Their association with diet, especially red meat, suggests a role in Neolithic diet transitions with increased exposure to xenobiotics (Luca et al. 2008; Sabbagh et al. 2018). The low cancer risk variants of human NAT1 and NAT2 are homozygous in Neandertals and Denisovans, as well as chimpanzees and gorillas, indicative of the ancestral alleles (Aarts et al. 2016). Humans and chimpanzees show opposite trends in allelic diversity for NAT1 (human:chimp, 0.2-fold less) versus NAT2 (human:chimp four- to nine-fold more). This divergence frustrates conclusions about the timing of divergence and whether parallel mutations arose independently. Several DNA samples from the Neolithic and Bronze Age had the modern high-risk alleles, suggesting recent origins. The major genetic instability of NAT genes across vertebrate phyla (Sabbagh et al. 2018) anticipates discovery of new variants from ongoing deep DNA sequencing.

#### COOKING, CALORIES, AND CHARRED MEAT

Cooking introduced further tradeoffs for domesticated fire. On the positive side, cooked foods (plant and animal) are more readily digested, which Carmody and Wrangham (2009) hypothesized was important to the evolution of our energy-demanding brain (Figure 3). Elegant experiments showed that young rats grew faster on isocaloric diets of briefly roasted food compared to raw food (Carmody et al. 2011). Six hepatic genes were identified as cooking-related for both meat and tubers, of which we note two: MARCO (alternatively named, scavenger receptor SCARA2) and *tnfrs11a* (TNF $\alpha$ -receptor family), which mediate air pollution inflammatory pathways, discussed below. Cooking-responsive genes diverged before the Neandertal and Denisovan lineages, circa 0.275 to 0.765 MYA, from comparisons in the 1000 Genomes Project with hominin fossil DNA.

Offsetting benefits of cooking to digestibility and taste, the browning and charring of foods generate evolutionarily novel toxins of the advanced glycation end products (Tamanna and Mahmood 2015; Delgado-Andrade and Fogliano 2018; Yu et al. 2018). The heat-driven spontaneous (nonenzymatic) Maillard reac-

tions of amino acids and reducing sugars generate myriad chemical modifications, from simple adducts (carboxymethyl lysine, CML) to complex heterocyclic amines (HCAs). Cooking and browning also increase benzo(a)pyrene and other PAHs (Lintas et al. 1979; Rose et al. 2015) to which are added PAHs present in the smoke arising from the combustion of fat (Lee et al. 2016). The 10-year NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study, with over 500,000 participants, showed pancreatic cancer risks that correlated with dietary intake of CML, but only in men (Jiao et al. 2015). Breast cancer risk was 1.6-fold more frequent for carriers of CYP1A1 and CYP1B1 who ate more grilled and smoked meat in a population-based study of 2000 individuals with matched controls (Parada et al. 2017). This association further supports the broad role of CYP in detoxifying PAHs and other xenobiotics generated by burning of wood and by cooking. Together, the PAHs and Maillard products from domestic and fires cooking comprise an evolutionarily novel Combustion Exposome. The CYP and NAT gene variants discussed may also have arisen in response to other unknown xenobiotics. Another unknown is how xenobiotics interacted with biomes of the gut (Clarke et al. 2019) and airways (Hosgood et al. 2014).

#### EXPOSOME PHASES II–III

##### DUST, FECAL AEROSOL ENDOTOXINS, SMOKE, AND CHARRED MEAT PLUS HUMAN FECES

Together with the changing sub-Saharan environments, the hominid dietary niche diversified from lower skill and lower calorie foods to high-quality and skill-intensive food sources (Kaplan et al. 2000). We focus on genetic changes that are meat-adaptive, as the ancestral diet shifted away from chimpanzee-like diet toward big game specialization (Finch and Stanford 2004; Lüdecke et al. 2018). Chimpanzees prioritize easily acquired foods with low nutritional value (Kaplan et al. 2000), as well as a few high-value, but hard-to-acquire foods such as hunted meat. About 2% of feral fecal samples contain evidence of vertebrate prey, comprising a small but important portion of the overall chimpanzee diet (Gilby



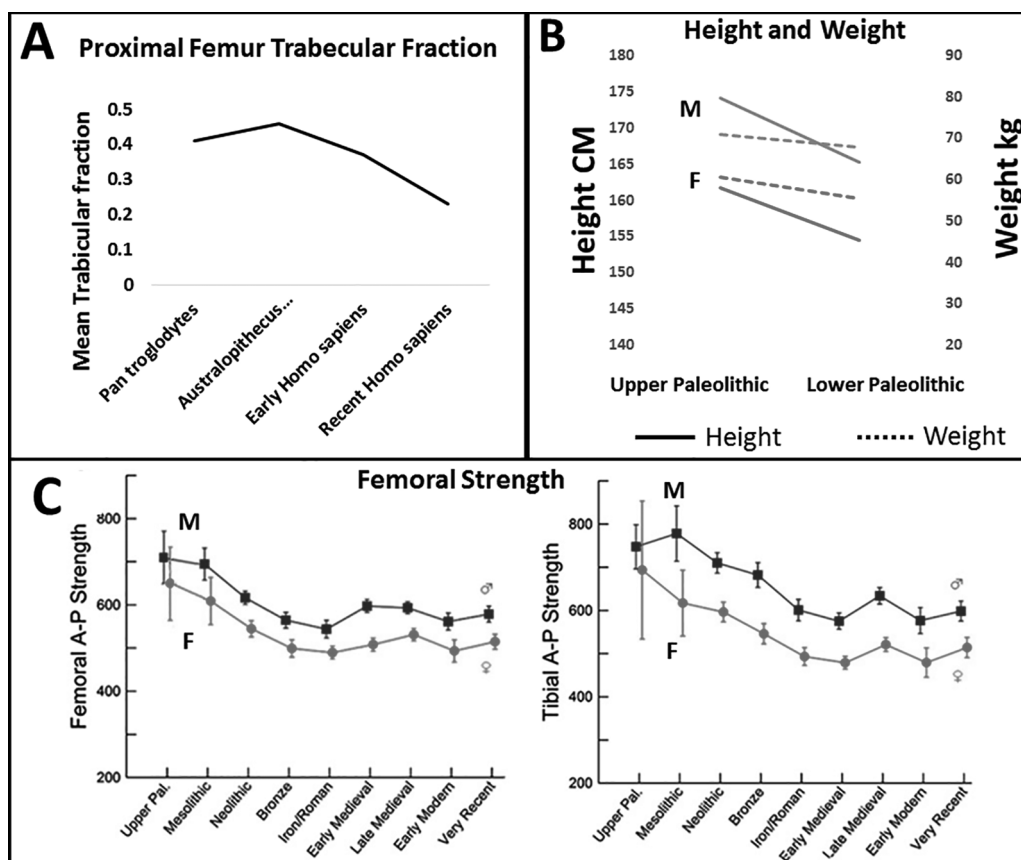


FIGURE 3. EVOLUTION OF BONE DENSITY-STRENGTH, BODY HEIGHT-WEIGHT

Panel A: Femoral trabecular fraction (Chirchir et al. 2015). Panel B: Body height and weight (Holt and Formicola 2008). Panel C: Femoral strength (Ruff et al. 2015). M, male; F, female. See the online edition for a color version of this figure.

2006; Moore et al. 2017). In contrast, most of the Neandertal diet was meat-based (Sistiaga et al. 2014), while extant hunter-gatherers average 45–65% of their calories from meat (Cordain et al. 2000). Because of major evolved increase of meat consumption, much research has focused on changes in gut morphology (Aiello and Wheeler 1995). Additionally, recent evidence indicates genetic adaptations linked to meat-eating that are protective for exposure to parasites.

The early evidence of hominin butchery is 3.4 MYA (McPherron et al. 2010), followed by strong evidence of butchery with stone tools by 2.5 MYA (de Heinzelin et al. 1999). We recognize uncertainties on the significance of the site (Domínguez-Rodrigo et al. 2010). Greater exposure to the tissues of

other vertebrates in correspondence with hunting suggests the parasite load experienced by early hominids likely exceeded that of chimpanzees. Coprolites provide evidence for parasite paleoecology (Spyrou et al. 2019), but are extremely rare prior to 50 KYA (Sistiaga et al. 2014). The earliest well-dated hominin coprolite is 1.8 MYA (Ferring et al. 2011), but apparently was not assessed for parasites. The first coprolite showing helminths is from a Neandertal site 50 KYA (Sistiaga et al. 2014). This lack of data frustrates assessment of the total disease burden across early hominid species. Fecal parasite analyses have many caveats: depending upon host immune system and the life-history stage for each given parasite, even individuals with high helminth or protozoal loads may not



shed many eggs or parasites (Stear et al. 1995; Sithithaworn et al. 2009).

Chimpanzees and other primates often carry multiple species of helminths and protozoa (Muehlenbein 2005), and use behavioral strategies to ameliorate infections (Wrangham 1995; Huffman and Caton 2001). Current indigenous subsistence populations also carry many parasitic infections in adults (Hurtado et al. 2008). For example, the Tsimané often are infected by helminths at a rate of 30–72% (Blackwell et al. 2013, 2015, 2016) and protozoans at 30% (Blackwell et al. 2013, 2016).

The coevolution of early hominids and helminths appears to have been a lengthy process. Human-specific tapeworms survive at high temperatures (greater than 53°C) that would not have been encountered without cooking fires (Allen 1947; Perry 2014). *Taenia solium*, a porcine tapeworm that causes morbidity in humans, has 35% more copies of heat shock proteins than other tapeworm species (Tsai et al. 2013; Perry 2014), suggesting coevolution of tapeworms with cooking.

Chimpanzees eat all parts of their prey, with special focus on brain and other calorie-dense tissues (Gilby and Wawrzyniak 2018). Ingestion of brain and peripheral nervous tissue increases risk for novel zoonoses (infections from other species), including bacteria, viruses, and prions. The virus exposure of human ancestors is obscure. Two exogenous retroviruses are known to cause current human disease, HIV (lentivirus) and HTLV (delta retrovirus), and both are ubiquitous in primates. Humans are unusual among hominoids in their lack of endemic infections from simian foamy viruses (SFVs) and other spumaviruses, which are ubiquitous in nonhuman primates, but rarely pathological (Switzer et al. 2005; Peeters et al. 2014). Yet, we are susceptible to SFV infections transmitted from nonhuman primates by bites or from eating bushmeat. Fortunately, accidental transmission of SFV to other humans is rare (Switzer et al. 2005; van der Kuyl 2012).

#### MEAT-RELATED PRION TRANSMISSION

The pathogens of carrion may have included infectious prions (Finch and Stanford 2004). The prion gene PRNP influences transmission of infectious prions between

species and latency of disease onset (Telling et al. 1996; Prusiner 1998). The extensive human prion variants confer resistance in heterozygotes (Mead et al. 2003, 2008). Prions also interact with the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) system described above: HLA-DQ7 is 75% less frequent in those with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) than in healthy controls (Jackson et al. 2001). The extensive diversity of prion variants suggests that kuru and other prion-caused neurodegenerative diseases were an ancient hazard of meat-eating and of ritual endocannibalism, an ancient practice continued until recently by the Fore people of New Guinea (Mead et al. 2008). Human PRNP gene polymorphisms may have evolved through multiple episodes of balancing selection, during the divergence of ancestral M and V lineages about 0.5 MYA (Mead et al. 2003). Primates are relatively vulnerable to prion infections (Cervenáková et al. 1994; Schätzl et al. 1995). Chimpanzee PRNP differs from humans at six sites (two coding, four noncoding; Mead et al. 2003) with unknown pathogenicity (Soldevila et al. 2004). The evolution of prion resistance in the Canidae (Fernández-Borges et al. 2018) may be a model for variations of PRNP allele frequency associated with levels of meat-eating and cannibalism in modern populations (Mead et al. 2003).

#### SIGLECS AT CELL SURFACES AND MEAT CONSUMPTION

Siglecs are sialic acid-binding, immunoglobulin-like proteins that mediate infections that enter cells by binding to host cell membrane sialic acids, particularly the neuraminic acids, Neu5Gc and Neu5Ac. These membrane constituents are made by the enzyme CMAH (cytidine monophosphate-N-acetylneuraminic acid hydroxylase), which converts N-acetylneuraminic acid (Neu5Ac) to N-glycolylneuraminic acid (Neu5Gc). Although other primates retain an active CMAH and Neu5Gc synthesis, the ancestral human CMAH gene was inactivated 2.5–3 MYA, possibly just before the emergence of the genus *Homo* (Okerblom and Varki 2017). The timing of the CMAH loss roughly approximates the major transitions to bipedalism and meat scavenging using Oldowan tools, and related adaptations.

Neu5Gc loss may have had broader effects, including altered immune responses and sensitivity to the gut biome that could alter resistance to infectious pathogens. However, human cells can acquire Neu5Gc from eating red meat (Samraj et al. 2015). Only Neu5Ac was detected in poultry meat and eggs, salmon, and shellfish; Neu5Gc is primarily found in red meats and also caviar. Although anti-Neu5Gc immunoglobulins are found at high levels in some individuals, anti-Neu5Gc antibodies have not shown anticipated correlation between levels of red meat consumption (Alisson-Silva et al. 2016). Varki and colleagues propose that cancer-risk is also a tradeoff of meat-eating (Samraj et al. 2015; Alisson-Silva et al. 2016). The relation of Neu5Gc to cancer was modeled with a mouse knockout of CMAH; these mice developed fivefold more hepatocarcinomas when fed Neu5Gc and immunized with Neu5Gc to model the proposed xeno-autoantibodies from self-reaction to ingested Neu5Gc.

Neu5Ac is targeted by human influenza virus and bacterial pathogens including *Salmonella typhi* and *Plasmodium falciparum*. Other pathogens that prefer the Neu5Gc of chimpanzees include *Plasmodium reichenowi*, which may have diverged 5–7 MYA concurrent with the shared chimp-human ancestor. The loss of CMAH may have protected against infections by *Plasmodium* species that targeted Neu5Gc. In direct comparisons, human macrophages had greater phagocytic activity than macrophages of chimpanzees and of normal mice (Okerblom et al. 2017). As a model for the evolutionary deletion, mice with an engineered gene deletion of CMAH had increased macrophage phagocytosis.

Humans are unique among hominids in expressing Siglec-11 and Siglec-16 in brain microglia (Hayakawa et al. 2017). The Siglec-16 gene locus includes Siglec-16P, an inactive pseudogene found globally, which is absent in great apes (Cao et al. 2008; Wang et al. 2012). The initial inactivation of Siglec-16 by 3 MYA may predate the genus *Homo* (Angata et al. 2002; Cao et al. 2008). Subsequent gene conversions from the contiguous Siglec-11 about 1.1 MYA preceded the shared ancestor of humans, Neandertals, and Denisovans (Wang et al. 2012). Siglec-16 is also

expressed in cervical epithelia (Wang et al. 2012; Landig et al. 2019), where it may mediate resistance to *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*; gonorrhea is uniquely human as a naturally transmitted infection (Landig et al. 2019). Because gonorrhea can reduce fertility from pelvic inflammation, Siglec-16 reactivation may have been adaptive for widely interbreeding human ancestors (Landig et al. 2019).

By living longer, humans are exposed to greater cumulative hazards, and developed novel gene adaptations that benefit later cognitive health. Siglec-3 is multiallelic; the evolved variant CD33m associated with late-onset Alzheimer's disease (LOAD; Schwarz et al. 2016; Siddiqui et al. 2017). The baseline CD33m gene produces two transcripts and is associated with a SNP that influences exon 2 splicing. The AD-protective CD33m isoform is unique among Siglecs by its deletion of a ligand-binding domain that lacks sialic acid binding (Siddiqui et al. 2017). By shifting the normal location of Siglec-3/CD33m from the cell outer membrane to subcellular peroxisomes, the AD-protective CD33m is proposed to enhance clearance of the amyloid- $\beta$  peptide by microglia. Humans uniquely have the protective allele, CD33m, which evolved after the common ancestor shared with Neandertals and Denisovans (Schwarz et al. 2016). Killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) also independently evolved this peroxisome-targeting motif, from which it is suggested that Siglec-3/CD33m evolved convergently in concert with the prolonged postreproductive phases observed in killer whales. Like humans, older killer whales have extensive social interactions with younger generations. Unlike humans, chimpanzee brains express the CD33m isoform although at 80% lower levels. The extreme neurodegeneration of human AD is apparently absent in chimpanzees (Austad and Finch 2014). The CD33 gene is close to another AD-protective locus on chromosome 19, the apolipoprotein E (ApoE3) gene that also evolved in modern humans.

#### SEROTONIN GENES RELATED TO FORAGING-SCAVENGING BEHAVIORS

Serotonin (5-HT), a major neurotransmitter and neuromodulator, is relevant to the

early exposome by influencing foraging, scavenging, and other exploratory behaviors (Elipot et al. 2013; Lottem et al. 2018). We suggest that serotonin system genes facilitated foraging and exploration in the spread of early *H. sapiens*. Genetic variants of several serotonin system genes emerged at about the same time as *H. sapiens* (Claw et al. 2010): based on mutation rate clocks (not fossil DNA), it appears that the 5-HT receptor allele HTR2A (5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2A) emerged by 0.33 MYA and was followed by introduction of alleles of the 5-HT transporter SLC6A4 (solute carrier family 6 member 4), then the variable number tandem repeat of intron 2 (VNTR) at 0.27 MYA and, lastly, at 0.22 MYA the short allele of the linked polymorphic region (LPR-S). In modern populations, these alleles vary widely in prevalence (Claw et al. 2010; Iurescia et al. 2016). Serotonergic gene variants have expanding behavioral associations that included anxiety, aggressivity, and impulsivity (Backström and Winberg 2017; Wong-Lin et al. 2017). By favoring expanded exploration, these behaviors would have also expanded the diversity of environmental exposures. Other primates independently evolved variants in 5-HT receptors and transporters, including chimpanzees (Claw et al. 2010), macaques (Shattuck et al. 2014a,b), and baboons (Kalbitzer et al. 2016). These and other monoamine transmitter gene variants are associated with behavioral differences within and between populations and kindred species.

#### INTROGRESSIONS OF NEANDERTAL AND DENISOVAN GENES

A new group of gene candidates in human evolution are the human-specific segmental duplications (HSDs) identified by Eichler and colleagues from comparisons of great apes with modern and archaic humans (Dennis et al. 2017). HSDs are defined as copy number increases of at least 2.5 copies in 90% of humans, expansions that are absent in great ape genomes. In our interpretation (Appendix Table 1), nearly one-half of the HSD segments included genes associated with brain functions; of these, most arose before 0.6 MYA, preceding the divergence of Neandertal, Denisovan, and modern humans. Immunity-re-

lated genes are the next largest class in HSD. Figure 2 maps the timing of these changes, which are briefly identified in Table 3.

We hypothesize that adaptation to ancient pathogens and airborne toxins may in some cases be protecting us today from novel airborne pollutants such as cigarettes and diesel smoke. However, we must also consider potentially deleterious effects because our environments are changing faster than our gene pools. Next we discuss known genetic differences between humans and archaic lineages across six major categories, including: innate immunity; scavenger receptors; immunoglobulin receptors; retroviral sequences; thermosensitivity and domestic fire for heat; and apolipoprotein E.

#### NEANDERTAL-DERIVED INNATE IMMUNITY-RELATED GENES

Adaptive benefits of human interbreeding with Neandertal and Denisovan lineages are indicated for innate immune genes, particularly those responding to viruses (Enard and Petrov 2018).

#### Oligoadenylate Synthetase (OAS)

The OAS locus includes three genes (OAS1,2,3) that mediate antiviral defenses of innate immunity by activating the latent RNase L (ribonuclease L) that degrades invading viral RNA. OAS haplotypes alter resistance to hepatitis C virus and tick-borne encephalitis, among other flaviviruses. The ancestral R haplotype includes six sites attributable to Neandertal introgression at about 0.125 MYA (Mendez et al. 2013). The introgressed OAS1 from the Denisovan may be restricted to Southeast Asia. The OAS2 haplotype R lacks eight amino acids of other haplotypes; it is common in Eurasians, but rare in Africans. The haplotypes differ in OAS gene expression, as shown in macrophages infected with *Salmonella*, herpes simplex viruses (HSV-1, HSV-2), and influenza virus (Sams et al. 2016). The Neandertal introgressed OAS1 had higher bioactivity and showed evidence of positive selection. Moreover, OAS gene expression in different tissues was modified

by archaic allele introgression (Dolgova and Lao 2018).

#### Toll-Like Receptors (TLR6, TLR1, TLR10)

For microbial resistance, a cluster of TLR genes (TLR6-TLR1-TLR10) shows introgression from the Neandertal and Denisovan genomes. The subclasses of TLR receptors recognize bacterial and fungal pathogens. Danneman et al. (2016) identified 61 archaic-like SNPs in a 143 kb region in the 1000 Genomes Project Phase III dataset. Three introgressed archaic haplotypes were identified: two were closest to Neandertals, and the other closer to Denisovans. These alleles were absent from modern African samples and evidenced positive selection in Asians and Europeans. One haplotype showed a twofold longitudinal gradient in Europe. The archaic SNPs fall mostly in noncoding regions of the 143 kb segment, which includes transcription factor-binding sites. Some archaic SNPs increased expression of the three TLR genes in lymphocytes. Archaic-like haplotypes comprise one-third of the TLR SNPs associated with lower seroprevalence of *Helicobacter pylori*. The preservation of these ancient haplotypes in high frequencies suggests their continuing role in host defense during the last 50,000 years in Eurasia.

#### Virus-Interacting Proteins (VIPs)

The broad category of virus-interacting proteins (VIPs) may comprise 30% of all adaptive amino acid changes in human proteome shared among mammals (Enard and Petrov 2018). Neandertal origins are defined for a subset of VIPs longer than 100 kb. Most long Neandertal-derived VIPs show recombination rates, with evidence for positive selection in Asian and European populations. Notably, Europeans had more Neandertal-derived VIPs than Asians, suggesting the introgressions postdated their divergence. Various VIPs interact with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1), influenza virus A (IFA), and hepatitis virus C (HCV). Their gene ontology (GO) categories include “viral genome replication” and “immune effector processes”; the latter includes the toll-like receptor (TLR2), an HIV-bind-

ing protein that has increased expression in Neandertal-derived expression of quantitative trait loci (eQTL). The growing list of VIPs suggests viral arms races that contributed adaptive mutations to each species.

#### Natural Killer Cell Immunoglobulin-Like Receptors (KIRs)

Natural killer cells have immunoglobulin-like receptors (KIRs) expressed on embryonic trophoblast cells that differ remarkably between humans and chimpanzees (Hilton and Parham 2017). Since divergence, humans lost most of the KIR lineage diversity that had evolved in simians since 15 MYA, while generating six human-specific KIR genes. Gene inactivation of KIR2DP1 was present in Neandertals and Denisovans (Hilton et al. 2017). Elegant research in genetic engineering uncovered the immune cell consequences of these genetic changes: evolving KIRs incurred more bottlenecks in humans than chimpanzees. Southeast Asian populations show evidence for a selective sweep in a KIR ligand (HLA-B\*46) about 60,000 YA, soon after modern humans arrived (Abi-Rached et al. 2011; Abi-Rached and Raoult 2016). KIR haplotypes of Group B show correlation with reproductive success, suggesting balancing selection (Parham et al. 2012). Unlike the well-documented malaria-resistance genes, we lack definitive evidence for the pathogens that selected KIR haplotypes, including the pressures driving the extensive major histocompatibility complex (MHC) variations within chimpanzee and bonobo populations (Maibach et al. 2017).

#### Scavenger Receptors For Microbes Differing From the MARCO Receptor

In lung macrophages and epithelial cells, the MARCO receptor mediates antigen presentation. Common MARCO alleles influence resistance to pulmonary pathogens that are human adapted: respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (Novakowski 2018). Human-specific MARCO alleles that influence susceptibility to pulmonary tuberculosis arose



by 0.5 MYA (Figure 1). Neandertal immune-related genes are discussed below.

#### TLR and Expression of Quantitative Trait Loci (eQTL)

Several TLR inflammatory pathways of innate immunity differ quantitatively between European and African populations in expression of quantitative trait loci (eQTL) of white blood cells associated with Neandertal DNA sequences (Quach et al. 2016). The recent term eQTL represents quantitative differences in gene expression that are associated with single-nucleotide gene variations in genome-wide association studies (GWASs). These eQTLs accounted for 50% or more of population differences in response to bacterial and viral stimulæ by TLR4 and TLR1/2, respectively. Neandertal-derived eQTLs that influenced gene expression in European samples were absent from African ones. Notably, most eQTLs were regulatory, rather than altering the amino acid sequence. Two loci represent 88% of trans-eQTLs associated with 794 trans-regulated genes: interferon beta 1 (IFNB1) and TLR1/2. These findings anticipate other archaic trans-regulatory “hotspots” relevant to lung inflammation and other immune interactions.

#### FGCR1 (FcγRI)

FGCR1 (FcγRI), a high-affinity immunoglobulin receptor, has major roles in defense against pathogenic bacteria and nematodes. For example, bacterial meningitis infections of neonatal mice depend on binding of the gut bacterium *Escherichia coli* to FGCR1 on macrophages (Mittal et al. 2010). Data are lacking to indicate how FGCR1 duplications during Phases I and II (Table 3) correspond to resistance to specific pathogens (Dennis et al. 2017).

#### Loss of Proretroviral Sequences

The deletion of the endogenous chimpanzee gene for the retrovirus PtERV1 (*Pan troglodytes* endogenous retrovirus-1) suggests shifting host defense mechanisms. Although

chimpanzees carry more than 100 copies of PtERV1, humans have none (Yohn et al. 2005; Polavarapu et al. 2006). The loss of PtERV1 occurred to about 4.7 MYA, with an estimated 95% range of 7.2–1.9 MYA (Kronenberg et al. 2018), which places its deletion in early *Homo*, or in a shared ancestor before the lines separated. The genomic loss of PtERV1 was attributed to incomplete lineage sorting (Kronenberg et al. 2018). Overall, the human genome carries much fewer endogenous retroviruses than chimpanzees (Magiorkinis et al. 2005).

#### THERMOSENSITIVITY AND EXPANSION TO COLDER CLIMES

The expanding range of humans to cold latitudes may have been facilitated by changes in TCAF and TRPM8 (transient receptor potential melastatin 8), two genes that mediate sensory perception of cold. About 0.3 MYA, TCAF1-TCAF2 evolved from a segmental duplication (Dennis et al. 2017). The TCAF proteins (TRPM8 channel-associated factors) detect coldness by their binding to the ion channel receptor TRPM8 (Gkika et al. 2015). TRPM8 is the only receptor that responds to moderate cold, and is expressed in somatosensory neurons and airway epithelial cells (Bautista et al. 2007; Knowlton et al. 2013; Liu et al. 2018). The TCAF genes have multiple copies in modern and archaic humans, while Neandertals and Denisovans had but one (Dennis et al. 2017). Although research is absent on extinct populations, the pleiotropies of TCAFs in modern humans include influences on cancer metastasis in prostate (Gkika et al. 2015) and glioblastoma (Klump et al. 2017).

The TRPM8 SNP, rs10166942, C/T varies more than tenfold between populations, with highest frequencies in northern Europe (Key et al. 2018). This SNP is 1 kb upstream of the coding sequences, implying its role in gene expression. The new T allele increases risk of migraine headache, with environmental sensitivity: migraines can increase sensitivity to cold temperature, while drinking cold water can trigger a migraine. Analysis of archaic DNA suggests that the T allele was prevalent 3000–8000 YA in Europe, and had spread

about 26,000 YA, approximating the last glacial maximum. With expansion into colder climates, exothermic heat sources such as controlled fire likely became a critical part of daily life, above and beyond cooking behavior.

#### DIPEPTIDASE

Genetic changes in dipeptidase (DPEP), an intestinal digestive enzyme, may have benefited resistance to domestic smoke exposure. Introgression of Neandertal DPEP1 (rs460879-T) in East Asians (Hu et al. 2015) has implications for stress responses to environmental smoke. DPEP1 enzyme variants influence blood homocysteine, a derived amino acid in the methionine cycle that is normally maintained at low levels. The elevation of homocysteine in cigarette smokers (Chen et al. 2015; Al Rifai et al. 2017) predicts systemic oxidative responses to domestic smoke. Because non-Neandertal DPEP1 alleles are common outside of East Asia, Hu et al. (2015) suggest that modern prevalence of the Neandertal East Asian allele represents its reintroduction from Altai Neandertal sources. Lower blood homocysteine may have lowered the risk of fetal neural tube defects, ischemic disease, and dementia associated with hyperhomocysteinemia (Perla-Kaján and Jakubowski 2019). Human chimpanzee comparisons for metabolism of glutathione and other antioxidants may in part explain why aging chimpanzees have low incidence of cardiovascular disease (Table 4) and Alzheimer's dementia (see below).

#### APOLIPOPROTEIN E (APOE)

ApoE is a multifunctional protein in lipid metabolism, immunity, and brain synapses. It was first known as a key transporter of cholesterol in the blood to the liver and in the brain to neurons. Humans evolved multiple ApoE isoform proteins differing in binding affinities for cholesterol and for lipoprotein receptors of the LDLR family (low-density lipoprotein receptor; Mahley et al. 2009). In all populations, ApoE3 is the most frequent allele, followed by the widely varying ApoE4 (Corbo and Scacchi 1999; Stengård et al. 2006; Reales et al. 2017). In Europe, ApoE4

has a strong latitudinal gradient, with a more than twofold excess in Nordic over Mediterranean populations. ApoE2 is generally the least prevalent, with some evidence that it may even be absent in some American indigenous groups (Reales et al. 2017). The higher prevalence of ApoE4 in northern Europe was hypothesized as adaptive for vitamin D needs in high latitudes with limited exposure to ultraviolet B (Gerdes 2003), discussed further in diet interactions below.

ApoE4 is associated with shorter life span in several populations (Drenos and Kirkwood 2010; Nygaard et al. 2014; Raichlen and Alexander 2014; Kulminski et al. 2016; Wolters et al. 2019) and is a major risk factor in Alzheimer's disease (AD). Moreover, ApoE4 worsens recovery from head trauma (Lawrence et al. 2015), which itself is an AD risk factor (Mendez et al. 2015). Worse yet, ApoE4 increases dementia risk from air pollution (Cacciottolo et al. 2017). In contrast, ApoE2 lowers the risks of AD and mortality at later ages (Schächter et al. 1994; Drenos and Kirkwood 2010).

The global persistence of ApoE4 suggests adaptive advantages in prior generations. Despite its strong association with AD and premature memory declines at later ages, ApoE4 has shown cognitive advantage to younger ages. In some studies, young adults carrying ApoE4 had slightly higher IQ and educational achievement (Tuminello and Han 2011). As a model for developmental memory, mice carrying human ApoE4 had stronger hippocampal long-term potentiation as subadults (age 2 months), but not as 6-month-old adults (Kitamura et al. 2004). Recent findings show health advantages of ApoE4 in several highly infected environments where ApoE4 enhances growth and survival. Brazilian slum children carrying ApoE4 had less diarrhea and better cognitive development (Oriá et al. 2007; Mitter et al. 2012). Moreover, in rural Ghana, we found increased survival of ApoE4 carriers as children and adults (van Exel et al. 2017). Furthermore, in the Tsimané, older adults with high parasite burdens had better cognition if they were ApoE4 versus E3 carriers (Trumble et al. 2017). In transgenic mice, human ApoE4



increased resistance to cryptosporidial enteric infections (Azevedo et al. 2014). Experimental malarial infections of human erythrocytes also showed protection by E4/E4 versus E3/E3 (Fujioka et al. 2013). Risk of leprosy, a bacterial infection of skin, is associated with noncoding sites in ApoE, e.g., SNP rs405509 in the ApoE promotor influences levels of ApoE protein in skin cells (Wang et al. 2018). ApoE4 may favor some infections, e.g., *Chlamydia pneumoniae* attached preferentially to host cells transfected with ApoE4 versus E3 (Gérard et al. 2008), consistent with excess ApoE4 in a group of arthritic patients with synovial infections of *C. pneumoniae* (Gérard et al. 1999), but again these patients have low pathogen burdens.

Chimpanzee ApoE is considered the ancestral hominin prototype because it resembles ApoE4 at the two amino acid sites that distinguish ApoE3 and ApoE4 (arginine, R112 and R158; Table 5). Chimpanzees apparently have only one ApoE isoform, in samples from Eastern and Western subspecies (Hanlon and Rubinsztein 1995; Fullerton et al. 2000; McIntosh et al. 2012). Another critical site of human ApoE is R61 versus T61 in chimps. The Denisovan ApoE resembled human ApoE4 at these three amino acids (Table 5; McIntosh et al. 2012). Frustratingly, published Neandertal genomes do not provide data for site 112. We do not know how these other ApoE differ from human ApoE4 in binding lipids and cellular lipoprotein receptors (Finch 2010). Uncertainties stem from differences in the amino acid at site 61,

which is critical for lipid binding (Raffaï et al. 2001) and because chimp-human ApoE differ in 11 nonsynonymous sites (Huebbe and Rimbach 2017). Pilot studies suggest that chimp ApoE may function more like ApoE4: transgenic chimp ApoE expressed in mouse astrocytes had neurotrophic activity equivalent to human ApoE4 rather than E3 (Mafalda Cacciottolo, pers. comm.).

These species comparisons, while limited by incomplete sequence data, support suggestions that ApoE4 was the ancestral isoform (Hanlon and Rubinsztein 1995; Fullerton et al. 2000; Mahley et al. 2009). ApoE has a deeper history within the ApoA/ApoC/ApoE gene family, which diversified during vertebrate evolution (Huebbe and Rimbach 2017). DNA estimates indicated that ApoE3 spread about 0.225 MYA (95% CI, 0.176–0.579 MYA), which approximates the definitive emergence of *H. sapiens* (Harvati et al. 2019). ApoE2 emerged later, about 0.08 MYA (Fullerton et al. 2000; Huebbe and Rimbach 2017). Possibly, ApoE3 was established 100,000 years before modern humans emigrated northeast to Eurasia.

Further studies of ApoE evolution must consider other genes that are closely linked to ApoE on chromosome 19q13.2. Its neighbor TOMM40 encodes a mitochondrial outer membrane protein (Lutz et al. 2016; Roses et al. 2016; Larsen et al. 2017). Alzheimer risk factors in TOMM40 coexist with ApoE alleles in haplotypes differing widely between Africans, Asians, and Europeans. The TOMM40 gene includes 16 Alu retroposon elements, which imply genetic instability (Larsen et al. 2017). However, chimps and other great apes have the same Alu suite as human TOMM40, a remarkable stability over 15 million years (Arvis Sulovari and Evan Eichler, pers. comm.). Other neighboring genes on chromosome 19q13.2 have been associated with AD risk (Kulminski et al. 2018).

Modern ApoE alleles are associated with blood cholesterol levels (Sing and Davignon 1985). For example, human ApoE3 carriers had 22% lower plasma triglycerides after a fatty meal than carriers ApoE4 (Carvalho-Wells et al. 2010). ApoE3 was hypothesized to have evolved as a “meat-adaptive” gene by

TABLE 5  
*ApoE amino acids in hominins*

ApoE isoform, prevalence range	Site 61	112	158
Human ApoE2, 1–19%	R	C	C
ApoE3, 55–90%	R	C	R
ApoE4, 5–40%	R	R	R
Denisovan	R	R	R
Neandertal	K		R
Chimpanzee 100%	T	T	T

C: cysteine; K: lysine; R: arginine; T: threonine; McIntosh et al. 2012. The Neandertal K61 was confirmed in the current ENSEMBL chimpanzee genome by Arvis Sulovari (Eichler Laboratory, University of Washington, pers. comm.).

favoring lower blood cholesterol (Finch and Stanford 2004), and plays critical roles in immune function that may be beneficial in high pathogen environments. Among indigenous South Americans, the ancestral ApoE4 SNP (rs7412T) was more than fivefold enriched in hunter-gatherers versus horticulturalists (Reales et al. 2017). With high pathogen load, and little evidence of cardiovascular disease in South American indigenous populations, the advantages of low blood cholesterol in cardiovascular disease may have been outweighed by the immune benefits of the ApoE4 allele (Kaplan et al. 2017; Trumble et al. 2017). The pathophysiological impact of ApoE4 may depend on infections carried by the population as noted above.

Higher blood vitamin D levels were associated ApoE4 in two studies: in a large sample from northern Germany and in mice transgenic for human ApoE alleles (Huebber et al. 2011). Diet ApoE-interactions are being considered for obesity and insulin resistance in the metabolic syndrome. In a randomized control trial, E4 carriers had stronger associations of insulin resistance with elevated levels of palmitate (C16:0), a saturated fatty acid (Caslake et al. 2008). These scattered findings suggest a deep involvement of ApoE alleles in the evolution of human diets.

#### SYNTHESIS, EXPOSOME PHASES I–III

We propose that the brain and immune systems coevolved for pathogen resistance and for brain development. Most of the genetic variants outlined affect functions in the brain and immune system. Systemic inflammation endangers the brain during pre- and postnatal development (Jiang et al. 2018). During pregnancy, for example, third trimester elevations of blood IL-6 and C-reactive protein (CRP), which are induced by bacterial infections, showed strong correlation with impaired postnatal cognitive development and brain circuit connectivity in medial prefrontal cortex (Spann et al. 2018). The vulnerability of children's brains to maternal infections would entail selective pressures on immune genes. The Fc gamma receptor gene (FCGR), which mediates defense against bacterial meningitis infections, underwent two events of duplica-

tion (Table 2). The MHC class I and class II proteins that mediate antigen presentation are active in brain development. For example, MHC class I-H2-Kb and H2-Db are expressed in neurons during normal brain development, and mediate synapse remodeling (Adelson et al. 2016). Neuronal stem cells also express MHC class II proteins in normal human embryos without pathogens or inflammation (Vagaska et al. 2016). MHC class I expression in dopaminergic neurons mediates reward-seeking behaviors (Murakami et al. 2018), while the natural killer cell receptor KIR has variants of MHC class I ligands that are associated with autism (Guerini et al. 2014; Torres et al. 2016). Complement factors also mediate synapse pruning (Györfy et al. 2018; Tenner et al. 2018), adding to the diverse co-option of ancient immune functions in brain evolution. Lastly, recall that ApoE4, a lipid transport gene, enhanced cognitive development and reduced diarrhea in children living in slums, a highly infectious environment. In healthy environments, ApoE4 carriers have smaller-sized frontal cortex regions as neonates, children, and young adults (Shaw et al. 2007; Piers 2018).

The ensemble of derived brain and immune genes in humans (Figure 2; Table 3) anticipates networks of brain-immune interactions that favored human expansion into environments with different pathogens and zoonotic possibilities. The evolution of longer postreproductive phases (Table 4) may have revealed novel frailties from the progressive slowing of information processing and neurotransmitter receptor loss during normal aging in modern humans that emerges in middle age without neuron cell losses of Alzheimer's disease (Finch 2009).

Many of the exposures and adaptations noted in Phase I are still relevant in Phases II–III. Exposure to dust and novel pollens would only have increased as individuals entered into a mosaic of novel environments during the diaspora from Africa. Although many of the Phase I exposures were still relevant, the advent of fire and cooking likely limited carrion pathogen exposure. Parasites and pathogens were also evolving, e.g., *Taenia solium*, hominin specific parasites, evolved heat resistance that increased its survival to cooking.

PHASE IV: HOLOCENE-NEOLITHIC TO  
INDUSTRIAL 12,000–200 YEARS BP  
PLUS HIGH-DENSITY POPULATIONS,  
DOMESTIC ANIMAL FECES,  
AND NEW INFECTIONS

Rapid changes in lifestyle and environmental exposures occurred for humans between 12,000 years ago and 1820 CE, with extensive changes to social life, diet, physical activity, population densities, and exposure to novel anthropogenic chemicals and toxins. Although 10,000 years is brief in evolutionary time, the major selective pressures entailed have left genetic signatures of selection (Nesse and Williams 2012). Global population estimates from the early Holocene range widely, from one to ten million (Thomlinson 1975; Klein Golde-wijk et al. 2011; Pala et al. 2012). By 1820, more than one million people lived in London, and the world population is approximated at one billion (Maddison 2003). These huge population expansions during shifts from hunting-foraging to settled farming to cities arose rapidly in evolutionary time. Ongoing studies of modern and fossil genomes anticipate many genomic changes in coding sequences relevant to pathogens, as is the case with resistance to malaria, but also in non-coding variants that alter gene expression with cell-type specificity (eQTLs).

ANIMAL DOMESTICATION AND AGRICULTURE

The spread of agriculture and animal domestication must have increased exposure to animal pathogens and dust. Archeological and genetic evidence is consistent for the domestication of sheep, goats, pigs, and cows by 10–11 KYA (Germonpré et al. 2009; Larson et al. 2014; MacHugh et al. 2017). Animal domestication had multiple impacts on humans from major changes in diet, daily physical activity, and increased exposure to pathogens from high human density habitation with human and animal feces.

CHANGING DIETS: EXPANDING AMYLASE  
GENES AND LACTASE PERSISTENCE

Animal and plant domestication introduced major changes in diet by increasing access to starchy foods, animal milk, and meat (Popkin

2006; Kraft et al. 2018). Although “no single diet . . . represented all hunter-gatherer societies” (Cordain et al. 2000:688), most hunter-foragers derived at least 50% of their diets from hunting and fishing (Cordain et al. 2000, 2005; Pontzer et al. 2018). Starchy foods are associated with gene evolutionary changes for the salivary enzymes  $\alpha$ -amylase (AMY1,2,3) mediate predigestion of starches. Chimpanzees have one AMY1 gene, while humans average seven copies (Perry et al. 2015; Inchley et al. 2016; Pajic et al. 2019), with a broad range of 2–18 copies. Siberians with low-starch diets have fewer AMY1 and more AMY2A deletions (Inchley et al. 2016). The AMY1 gene expansion arose after the split with Neandertals from a selective sweep during the Middle Pleistocene, possibly in association with increased starch consumption. More generally, animals closely associated with human starchy foods have a thousandfold higher salivary amylase activity in association with lineage-specific AMY1 gene multiplication, e.g., domestic dogs have multiple copies of AMY1 unlike wolves (Pajic et al. 2019). Modern populations have genetic changes in the regulation of lactase, the enzyme of intestinal cells that yields glucose from lactose, the milk sugar.

Before animal husbandry, adults had negligible exposure to lactose after weaning. Unsurprisingly, genetic variants for lactase persistence (continued activity of the lactase enzyme past childhood) have not been detected in Neolithic European farmers (Burger et al. 2007). Lactase persistence (C-14010) had a selective sweep in sub-Saharan Africa within the last 7000 years (Tishkoff et al. 2006; Enattah et al. 2007). Moreover, lactase persistence shows convergence in several SNPs of sub-Saharan Africans (G/C-14010, T/G-13915, C/G-13907) and Europeans C/T-13910 (Tishkoff et al. 2006; Ranciaro et al. 2014). The individual duration of lactase expression into adulthood differs by levels of DNA methylation in intestinal cells for epigenetic haplotypes (Labrie et al. 2016). The rapid spread of these genes may have benefited from larger body mass and energy reserves that favored survival from acute and chronic infections, as well as increasing fertility (Montalva et al. 2019). Durable milk products

such as cheese are found by 8000 years ago and gave dual benefits: longer storage and a reduction in lactose, which made dairy accessible to those lacking lactase persistence genes (Salque et al. 2012).

#### FATS, FECAL AEROSOLS, AND FIBER CONTENT

Besides increasing milk for those with lactase persistence genes, selective breeding of livestock increased the availability of dietary fat. The primary storage of subcutaneous fat in wild mammals is as saturated fatty acids, while fatty acids stored in muscle are poly- and monounsaturated fats (Cordain et al. 2002). Typical wild prey mammals and birds only have abundant subcutaneous fat for a few months per year prior to reproduction, and thus during much of the year have low levels of saturated fats. Neolithic animals were bred to maintain subcutaneous fat year round. Consequently, grain-fed beef has severalfold more saturated fat than game, but less polyunsaturated fat (Cordain et al. 2002). Paralleling animals, plant domestication improved crop yields and caloric value, while narrowing the diversity of plant species consumed (Cordain 1999; Cordain et al. 2005). In addition to dietary exposure to lactose and higher fat concentration, domestication may have greatly increased overall exposure to potential pathogens from bacteria, fungi, worms, prions, and viruses, for which there is early evidence (Table 3). Infections have a huge range of vectors that include ectoparasites (fleas, ticks) and insects (flies, mosquitoes) that are associated with domestic animals and agriculture (Zuckerman and Armelagos 2014; Ross et al. 2018; Asante et al. 2019; Davidson et al. 2019). The majority of our 2100 infectious pathogens are considered zoonotic (Lloyd-Smith et al. 2009). Domestic animals were often maintained in close proximity to cooking, eating, and sleeping. In Çatalhöyük on the Anatolian plateau 9000 YBP, domestic animal feces and parasite eggs were adjacent to the densely inhabited apartments (Larsen et al. 2019). Until recently, many traditional farmers kept livestock close to or within their living quarters for protection and warmth. Much is obscure about the contribution of pathogenic infections from natural versus

domestic animal populations. Some evidence suggests bidirectional exchange of tuberculosis *Mycobacterium* species between humans and livestock: cattle, *M. bovis*; goats, *M. caprae* (Hershkovitz et al. 2015). We do not know how the gradual reduction of wild populations from expanding farming and urbanization altered zoonotic infections.

#### SUGAR CULTIVATION

The saccharide content of many cultivars was increased over wild species (Hardy et al. 2015; Schnorr et al. 2015). Sugar cane was first domesticated 5–8 KYA in New Guinea (Denham 2011), long before molasses and other sugar products contributed to global diets. However, honey, one of the most energy dense foods in nature, is common across many contemporary subsistence populations (Hill and Hurtado 1996; Cordain et al. 2005; Crittenden 2011; Marlowe et al. 2014; Trumble et al. 2014; Kraft et al. 2018). Crystallized sugars were produced by 500 BC (Kuti and Galloway 1994). The use of sugar expanded rapidly in the last 400 years. By 2010 in the U.S., added sugars comprised than 14% of the diet (Drewnowski and Rehm 2014). Excessive intake of calories, particularly sugar and other carbohydrates, is a widely recognized risk factor for type 2 diabetes (T2DM).

Less is known about interactions of lifestyle, genetics, and T2DM. More than 150 SNPs are associated with T2DM in different populations, e.g., *NIDDM1* in Mexican Americans, *CAPN10* in northern Europeans (Horikawa et al. 2000), and *SLC30A8* *TCF7L2* *IDE-KIF11-HHEX* and *EXT2-ALX4* in France (Sladek et al. 2007). Some SNPs associated with T2DM risk could have additional roles.

The capacity to rapidly store calories in fat is postulated as beneficial throughout human evolution in the thrifty phenotype hypothesis (Hales and Barker 2001). Traditional life prior to agriculture had high levels of physical activity, high parasite and pathogen load, and less caloric abundance. Under these conditions, rapid energy storage as fat would be advantageous (Hales and Barker 2001; Cordain et al. 2005; Gurven et al. 2016b, 2017). Nonetheless, in current sedentary urban environments with low parasites and pathogens



and easily available foods, a “thrifty phenotype” is less advantageous. Moreover, T2DM shows intergenerational transmission in association with DNA methylation (Barrès and Zierath 2016).

In summary, the increased calories from domesticated crops and animals provided both increased calories that supported higher population densities and the availability of weaning foods decreased interbirth intervals resulting in faster population growth. In addition to higher population densities, the stationary nature of agriculture and some types of animal domestication meant that traditionally nomadic peoples settled, setting the stage for the first cities.

#### POPULATION DENSITY AND EPIDEMICS

The birth intervals are longer in hunter-gatherers than horticulturalists (Bentley et al. 2001; Helle et al. 2014): three to four years in the forest Aché (Hill and Hurtado 1996), Gainj (Wood 1994), and !Kung (Jones 1986) to 2.5 years in Tsimané forager-horticulturalists (Gurven et al. 2016a), and horticultural Aché postcontact (Hill and Hurtado 1996). Although fertility increased during this transition from foraging to farming (Bentley et al. 1993; Page et al. 2016), it is unknown how much of the increased fertility was due to consistent availability of calories year round (Kramer and Greaves 2007), access to weaning foods (Larsen 1995), or other lifestyle changes (Gage and DeWitte 2009). Although hunter-gatherers were infected by helminths and other long-lived lower virulence pathogens (Bennett et al. 1970; Hill and Hurtado 1996), the low population densities of hunter-gatherers gave some protection against the spread of high virulence pathogens causing acute infections that have limited protection by slow responding adaptive immune responses (Table 1; Henn et al. 2012; Karlsson et al. 2014). Extant horticulturalists may have higher parasite and pathogen loads than hunter-foragers due to higher population densities and sedentary communities with poor sanitation. Information is limited: we need more cross-population studies with consistent protocols (Bennett et al. 1970; Blackwell et al. 2011, 2013, 2016; London and Hruschka 2014).

Adult body size progressively decreased during the Paleolithic and Neolithic expansion of settled populations, assessed by height and weight (Holt and Formicola 2008), and bone mass density (Chirchir et al. 2015; Ruff et al. 2015; Figure 3). This combination suggests energetic tradeoffs in maintenance of skeletal tissues in higher pathogen contexts. Extant horticultural populations with high parasite and pathogen loads and high total fertility rates tend to have low bone mass density (Stieglitz et al. 2015, 2017, 2019), and shorter stature (Blackwell et al. 2017; Urlacher et al. 2018). These tradeoffs are consistent with the recent increase of European adult height in association with reduced early infections, and are discussed below.

Epidemics were favored by increasingly dense populations. Pathogens of most early plagues and ordinary infections are unknown; some parasitic infections can be identified by paleo-DNA (Table 6) of *Variola*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Vibrio cholerae*, and other highly virulent pathogens with fast reproductive rates ( $R_0$ ; Dobson and Carper 1996; Keeling and Gilligan 2000; Karlsson et al. 2014).

Little is known about ancient pathogenic infections. *Helicobacter pylori* may have been present in humans as early as 100,000 YBP in Africa, followed by clonal diversification after 60,000 YBP (Achtman 2016). Humans are the sole host, giving rise to *H. acinonychis* in large African cat species (Eppinger et al. 2006). The earliest evidence for *M. tuberculosis* comes from Atlit Yam, 9000 YBP near Haifa, Israel (Hershkovitz et al. 2015). The absence of tuberculosis in contemporary Çatalhöyük (Larsen et al. 2019) suggests uneven prevalence in the Neolithic, preceding its global spread (Achtman 2016; Saelens et al. 2019). The zoonotic origins of *M. tuberculosis* are unresolved; dating of the seven clonal families of obligate human-adapted pathogens is sensitive to molecular clock assumptions (Saelens et al. 2019). Malaria origins are discussed below. Small pox, “one of humankind’s greatest scourges” (Barquet and Domingo 1997:635), decimated many civilizations, including the Roman Empire, Hittites, and the 90% depopulation of Mexico after Spanish conquests of the 1500s (McNeill 1989). Smallpox has retained high mortality:

TABLE 6  
*Early evidence of infectious disease and pathogen-resistance genes*

Disease	Place, date	Species	Protective gene candidates
Cholera <sup>a</sup>	Ganges delta, 5 KYA	<i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	NF-κB, cAMP-mediated chloride secretion blood group
Leprosy <sup>b</sup>	Sub-Sahara, >10 KYA	<i>Mycobacterium leprae</i>	TLR1 gene, <i>CYLD</i>
Nematodes <sup>c,d</sup>	Ancient Europe- Western Asia	Soil and meat-borne: whipworm <i>Ascaris</i> ; roundworm <i>Trichuris</i>	ApoE4
Plague <sup>e</sup>	Eurasia, 5–3.5 KYA	<i>Yersinia pestis</i> , modern; many candidate pathogens	CCRΔ32
Small pox <sup>b</sup>	Africa, 15–70 KYA	<i>Variola virus</i>	CCRΔ32
Gonorrhea	Africa, >100 KYA	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	Siglec-16 <sup>g</sup>
Malaria <sup>b</sup>	Africa, >100 KYA	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>	Duffy, G6PD deficiency, α+ thalassemia, hemo- globin C, CGYP A/B/C-deficient erythrocytes
Malaria <sup>f</sup>	Africa, 22 KYA	<i>P. falciparum</i>	Hemoglobin β <sup>s</sup> , sickle cell mutant

<sup>a</sup>Karlsson et al. 2014.  
<sup>b</sup>Karlsson et al. 2014.  
<sup>c</sup>Mitchell 2015, 2017.  
<sup>d</sup>Søe et al. 2018.  
<sup>e</sup>Spyrou et al. 2018.  
<sup>f</sup>Laval et al. 2019.  
<sup>g</sup>Wang et al. 2011; Landig et al. 2019.

case-fatality rates range from 30% for ordinary smallpox to 90–100% for the flat-type or hemorrhagic (Henderson et al. 1999). Mutation of the chemokine receptor gene CCRΔ32 mutation shows signs of positive selection (Galvani and Slatkin 2003), and originated from a single mutation event, 700–2000 years ago (Libert et al. 1998; Stephens et al. 1998; Galvani and Novembre 2005). Although CCRΔ32 protects against *Yersinia pestis* and some other major epidemic pathogens, epidemiological models suggest that the repeated smallpox epidemics had more impact on positive selection for CCRΔ32 than bubonic plague; *Yersinia pestis* alone could account for only 10% of the CCRΔ32 increase in European populations (Galvani and Slatkin 2003).

With the rise of concentrated populations in towns, cities, and megacities in the Industrial Age, waterborne disease would have become a significant cause of mortality and selective pressure before sanitation and water purification was prevalent (Cutler and Miller 2005). For example, *Vibrio cholerae* from the Ganges River causes high mortality (Karlsson et al. 2013, 2014). The nearly twofold higher rate of cholera infections for blood group O (Harris et al. 2008) may underlie the low prevalence of the O blood group in Bangladesh, an ancient epicenter of cholera

(Karlsson et al. 2013). Other genes over-represented in Bangladesh include nuclear factor-κB (NF-κB) signaling, and cyclic AMP-mediated chloride secretion, related to cholera resistance (Karlsson et al. 2013).

Climate changes also favored mosquito-borne infections, particularly in the Green Sahara during the Holocene Wet Phase (Neolithic Subpluvial) 7500–3000 BCE, with concurrent expansion of *Plasmodium* parasites with agriculture and animal domestication (Shriner and Rotimi 2018; Laval et al. 2019). Haldane hypothesized 70 years ago that heterozygotes for heritable thalassemia are resistant to malaria (Lederberg 1999). Sickle cell hemoglobin (HbS) became the iconic example of balancing selection, followed by many more genes conferring malarial resistance. A short list includes FY\*O mutation of Duffy antigen receptor, a glycoprotein that facilitates infections (DARC; atypical chemokine receptor 1, ACKR1 gene); G6PD (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency; glycophorin genes, and the 5q31–q33 immune gene cluster; Tishkoff et al. 2001; Malaria Genomic Epidemiology Network 2015; Marquet 2018). Epistatic gene interactions and DNA methylation further expand the complexity of malarial resistance (Arama et al. 2018; Marquet 2018).



Hemoglobin S has a single origin in Africa, which is dated differently according to models and assumptions as early as 7300 YBP (Shriner and Rotimi 2018) or pre-Neolithic 22,000 YBP (Laval et al. 2019). The Duffy blood group mutation FY\*O may be even older at 42,000 YBP (McManus et al. 2017). FY\*O is absent from Neandertals and Denisovans, which had the ancestral FY\*B. This frameshift mutation causes premature termination of the ACKR1 transcript and dysfunction of the glycoprotein mediator of *Plasmodium vivax* infection; FY\*O has nearly replaced other DARC alleles in equatorial Africa in selective sweeps with extreme fitness coefficients of 4% (McManus et al. 2017). However, fixation is incomplete in sub-Saharan Africa (Howes et al. 2011). In Southeast Asia malarial prone regions, a novel 838 DARC mutant emerged independently of the African (Shimizu et al. 2000), but also has not reached fixation. Moreover, *P. vivax* has evolved a novel red cell invasion mechanism in Madagascar and Senegal in Duffy mutation carriers (Niang et al. 2018).

Ancient origins of malaria are being clarified. Six *Plasmodium* species naturally infect chimpanzee or gorilla (Otto et al. 2018). Of these, the gorilla *P. falciparum* became adapted to human by zoonotic transfer about 50,000 YBP. The pathogenicity of *P. falciparum* arises from adhesion domains in the *var* gene family that allow entrapment of infected red cells in the microcirculation; the *var* genes originated before their great ape hosts, suggesting ancient evolutionary battles of host resistance and *Plasmodium* genes that modify red cell adhesion and virulence (Brazier et al. 2017).

TOXIC METALS

Most data are from the Bronze and Iron ages, when technological advancements introduced evolutionarily novel exposure to heavy metals. The earliest evidence of lead exposure was found in teeth of two Neanderthal children in the Rhône valley 140–300 KYA, showing tenfold higher lead above basal levels (Smith et al. 2018). These exposures appear to be isolated events following weaning. In the mid-Paleolithic, heavy metals

nickel, zinc, and copper were found in Iberian cave sediments (Monge et al. 2015). Metallurgical lead exposure is documented by 3600 BCE in the Balkans (Longman et al. 2018). Greenland Ice Cores record lead emissions far from industrial centers, corresponding to the Phoenician and Western Roman expansions (McConnell et al. 2018). Ice core data likely underestimate the local exposure from the lead water pipes commonly in Roman cities. Other data are from sediments in Roman harbors (Delile et al. 2014, 2017). The lead content of Roman bones was a thousandfold higher than of ancient Peruvians not exposed to lead smelting (Patterson et al. 1987). Lead exposure is unlikely to have triggered the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, because lead contamination was decreasing during its decline (Delile et al. 2017).

AIR POLLUTION

Increased exposure to airborne pollutants followed the transition from seminomadic hunting and gathering to more sedentary horticultural and agrarian lifestyles, which is likely to have increased mortality: from 1.6 to 3.8 million excess deaths per year are attributed to indoor (household) air pollution (Landrigan et al. 2018) that arise from burning dried dung and other low-grade fuels (Table 7, Phase V, below), and represent about one-half of the total mortality from ambient air pollution and cigarettes. Permanent dwellings, particularly in cold climates, were

TABLE 7  
*Mortality from airborne toxins*

	Annual excess mortality, millions
Ambient air pollution (AAPPM <sub>2.5</sub> )	2.9 <sup>a</sup> –8.8 <sup>b,c</sup>
Household air pollution (HAP)	1.6 <sup>a</sup> –3.8 <sup>d</sup>
Cigarette smoke <sup>e</sup>	
Direct	6.4
Secondhand	0.65
Total mortality from airborne toxins	12–20 million

<sup>a</sup>Health Effects Institute 2019  
<sup>b</sup>Burnett et al. 2018  
<sup>c</sup>Lelieveld et al. 2019  
<sup>d</sup>World Health Organization 2018  
<sup>e</sup>GBD Tobacco Collaborators 2017  
Also see Kuhn et al. 2016; Landrigan et al. 2018; Fuller and Font 2019; United States Environmental Protection Agency 2019.

typically built of higher quality than nomadic dwellings that allows less air exchange, and would retain more indoor airborne particulate matter. For example, indoor air modeling of 17th-century Danish farmhouses predicted carbon monoxide and PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels above WHO guidelines (Ryhl-Svendsen et al. 2010). Besides wood as a domestic fuel, coal was increasingly used after 1500 in Europe; by the mid-16th century, coal provided 10% of the energy in England, rising to 80% by 1800 (Wrigley 2013). Increased household coal burning caused the smogs of London and other cities that were infamous long before the Industrial Revolution (Evelyn 1661; Brimblecombe and Grossi 2009). Although data before 1900 are lacking, pollution-related morbidity and mortality exposure were likely high for centuries in Europe's smoky cities, which we infer from the 12,000 excess deaths attributed to the London Smog of 1952 (Bell et al. 2004; Finch 2018).

#### SYNTHESIS PHASE IV

Major changes in lifestyle during Holocene resulted from agriculture and animal domestication led to dense settlements with increased exposure to anthropogenic pollutants and favored epidemic disease. These exposures were compounded by increasing population densities and pollution of ground and river water from human and animal feces, as urban centers increased in density. Phase IV was associated with a suite of new selective pressures to infection pathogens, illustrated by candidate genes for resistance to cholera and malaria. Many of these factors would interact: air pollution combined with high population density and higher sugar and higher fat diets.

#### EXPOSOME PHASE V: INDUSTRIAL AGE, 1820–2020

#### PLUS STERILE INFLAMMOGENS FROM AIR POLLUTION, FOSSIL FUEL, TOBACCO, AND ADIPOSYTY WITH REDUCED MORTALITY FROM INFECTIOUS PATHOGENS

In Exposome Phases I–IV, mortality was driven by pathogens from recurring acute bacterial and viral infections on the back-

ground of chronic infections of bacteria, viruses, and parasites. With understanding of hygiene and infectious diseases that emerged long before vaccinations and antibiotics, acute infections as a primary cause of death began to diminish. The initial reductions of infant mortality are attributed to improved hygiene, water quality, and food availability (Fogel and Costa 1997; Drevenstedt et al. 2008). However, with industrialization came new sources of chronic disease from environmental pollutants, industrial toxicants, and tobacco. Thereby, chronic pathogen-driven infections as a cause of adult mortality was gradually replaced by diseases of aging that are accelerated by sterile inflammogens from cigarette smoke and air pollution. There are important interactions of noncommunicable diseases with infections. Chronic inflammatory lung conditions from smoking and air pollution increase vulnerability to infections. For example, smoking increases the risk of pneumococcal infections fourfold over nonsmokers, and even second-hand exposure increased pneumonia risk by 2.5-fold over nonsmokers (Nuorti et al. 2000).

During Phase V, life spans in developing countries doubled in less than 10 generations during the diminution of infectious pathogens as the main cause of morbidity and mortality. Paradoxically, this mortality transition was fostered by the Industrial Revolution. In *The Modern Rise of Population*, McKeown (1976) argued that population growth during the Industrial Revolution was mainly attributable to improved food and better food distribution. Two decades later, the “techno-physio revolution” by Fogel and Costa (1997) argued for an equal or greater role of advances in hygiene, medicine, and technology in addition to food availability. These landmark studies do not, in our view, sufficiently recognize the role of reduced morbidity from infections in increasing healthspan and longevity (Finch and Crimmins 2004; Crimmins and Finch 2006; Finch 2007). Here we further the importance of the shift from pathogen-driven chronic inflammation to inflammation of chronic diseases that is driven by sterile inflammogens that include air pollution, cigarette smoke, and fat depots.

These complex changes emerged with major differences in life span and burden of

chronic disease by gender and socioeconomic status (SES). Examples from the huge body of relevant work are chosen to illustrate major features of longevity increases in association with decreasing mortality from infections.

#### MORTALITY AND LONGEVITY

Mortality trends are known for a few countries as mortality from infections gradually diminished in the transition to industrialization. Sweden had the first household-based nationwide record of mortality across the life span in mid-18th century (Sköld 2004). The 19th-century survival curves dip sharply from early life mortality (Figure 4A). In 1800 the life expectancy at birth ( $E_0$ ) was about 35 years, within the range of other preindustrial indigenous peoples in the 20th century (Gurven and Kaplan 2007; Phase IV). Survivors to age 20 in 1800 had remaining life expectancy of about 45 years. Major further reductions of early-age mortality lengthened survival curves into the 20th century (Figure 4A). As early age mortality dropped, later age survival also increased. Life expectancy at age 70 ( $LE_{70}$ ) has more than doubled since 1850 (Finch and Crimmins 2005; Figure 4B).

More broadly, the developing countries in Europe and North America share consistent increases toward  $LE_0$  of about 80. Centenarians have become the fastest growing age group (Robine and Cubaynes 2017; Gavrilov and Gavrilova 2019). In effect, the health-rich populations have more than doubled the  $LE_0$  of early hominid evolution in Exposome Phases I–III. Infant mortality declined sharply (Figure 4A). Although much of the increase in  $LE_0$  during the last few centuries was due to reduced infant mortality, survivorship was increased across the life span, including older ages (Figure 4B). We hypothesized that the surviving infants in highly infectious environments before 1900 carried determinants of earlier onset mortality, the cohort morbidity hypothesis (Finch and Crimmins 2004; Crimmins and Finch 2006). As early mortality from infections declined, successive birth cohorts had improved growth (Figure 5A), with increasing adult height shown for France (Figure 5B); other Euro-

pean countries have similar trends (Crimmins and Finch 2006).

Infections likely played an important role in both early age mortality to impaired growth in these historical cohorts (Crimmins and Finch 2006; Finch 2007). Chronic childhood gastrointestinal infections are associated with growth impairments, e.g., the number of diarrhea days experiences by rural Guatemalan children predicted their adult height (Martorell et al. 1975). Inflammatory (host defense) responses to chronic infections are metabolically demanding, while also critical for survival. Infections during development cause energy reallocation at the expense of growth (Finch 2007). In adults, fever associated with severe infections increases resting metabolic rates up to 100% (Waterlow 1984; Lochmiller and Deerenberg 2000). Moreover, fever during respiratory and diarrheal diseases is often accompanied by anorexia that can reduce food intake up to 20% (Martorell et al. 1980; Butte et al. 1989). Although we know less about the energetics of host defense in children, the effects of chronic infections on growth stunting are consistent with the concept of energy reallocation.

#### BIRTH WEIGHT AND FETAL GROWTH RETARDATION

Maternal health is also associated with birthweight, postnatal growth, and later life health. These well-documented links are represented in the Barker hypothesis, also known as the fetal origins of adult disease (Barker 1995; Finch 2007:241). Birth cohorts showed correlations for cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality with neonatal mortality (Barker and Osmond 1986) and for systolic blood pressure at age 50 with birthweight (Martyn et al. 1995). These English birth cohorts preceded the availability of antibiotics. Neonatal deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia correlated with later CVD mortality in cohort survivors ( $r = 0.68$ ; Barker and Osmond 1986). These findings are broadly confirmed. A meta-analysis of 23 prospective studies calculated a 10–20% lower risk of CVD per 1 kg of higher birthweight (Wang et al. 2014). Birthweight is more strongly influenced by environmental factors than genetics (57,613 twins from

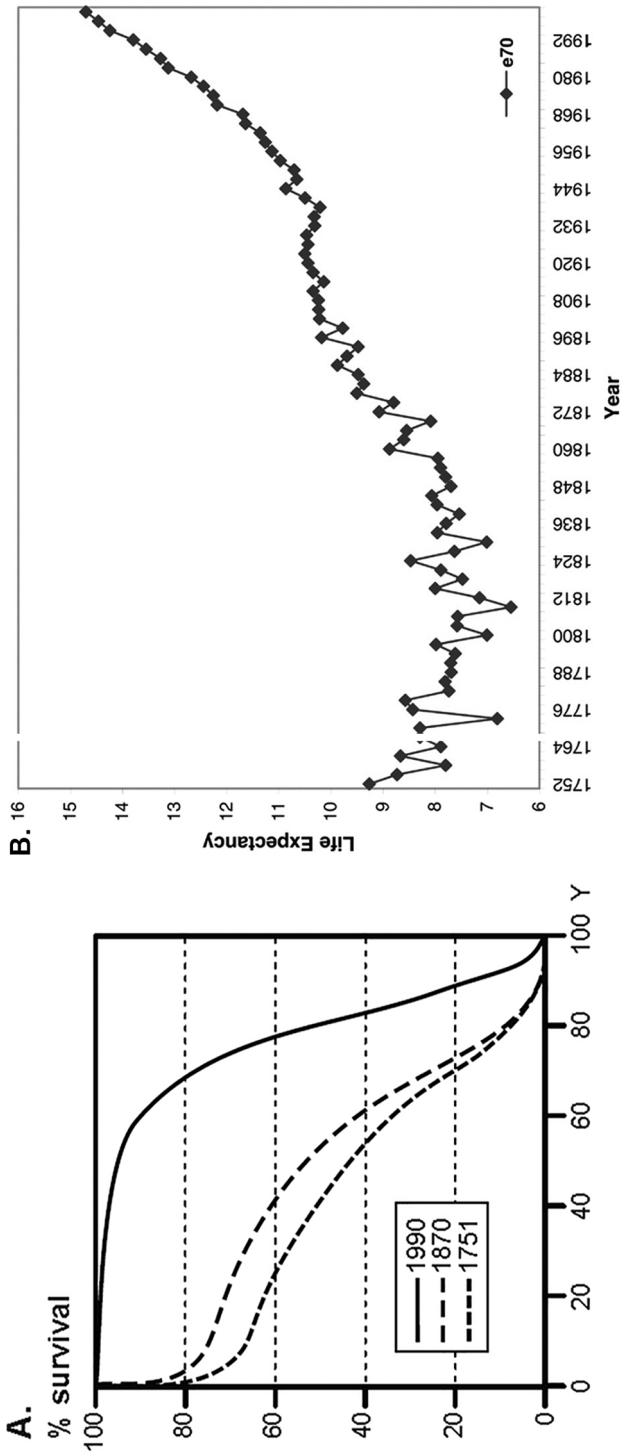


FIGURE 4. SWEDISH MORTALITY SINCE 1800  
Panel A: Survival curves (Human Mortality Database). Redrawn from Finch 1818. Panel B: Life expectancy at age 70. Redrawn from Crimmins and Finch 2006. See the online edition for a color version of this figure.

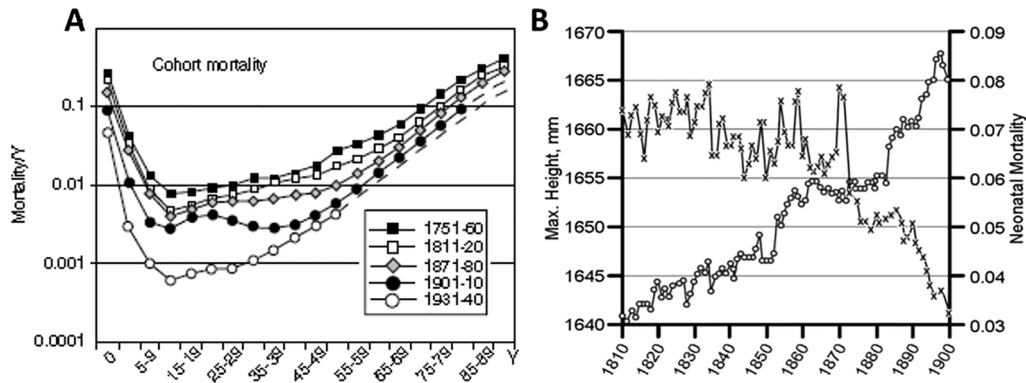


FIGURE 5. COHORT EFFECTS ON MORTALITY AND ADULT HEIGHT

Panel A: Mortality in Sweden by birth cohort, showing parallel shifts in mortality curves across the life span with declining early age mortality from infection. Redrawn from Finch 2018:Figure 5.10; Human Mortality Database, Eileen Crimmins (pers. comm.). Panel B: Adult height at age 21 varied inversely with neonatal mortality, 1806–1895, in French cohorts; England and Sweden showed similar relationships. Redrawn from Crimmins and Finch 2006.

16 countries; Yokoyama et al. 2018). Low birthweights also predict shorter adult height; adult height increased 1.14–4.25 cm per 1 kg increase of birthweight (41,852 twin pairs from 16 countries, CODATwins Project; Jelenkovic et al. 2018).

Twin birth weights reveal further complexity. In developed countries, twin birth weights are typically 2500 g or lower than singleton birth weights of 3000 g (Finch 2007:252). However, twins did not differ from singleton births for adult mortality and CVD (19,986 Danish twins, born 1870–1930; Christensen et al. 2001). The exception of twins to the strong birthweight-CVD relationship for singletons warns that fetal growth retardation does not inevitably cause fetal reprogramming for higher CVD risk.

Although maternal infections have diminished in the developed world, developing countries are incurring increased maternal malaria (50 million pregnancies) and impaired fetal growth (Kalanda et al. 2005; Soma-Pillay and Macdonald 2012). Maternal HIV infections are more prevalent than malaria in some developing countries, with increased risk of low birthweight (Xiao et al. 2015). Even brief infections from influenza can impact fetal health. The 2009 H1N1 pandemic increased risk of small-for-gestational-age births by 60% and lowered birth weight by 45 gm in Kaiser Permanente patients (Hansen et al.

2012; Richards et al. 2013). The exceptionally virulent 1918 influenza pandemic had life-long impacts. Birth cohorts exposed in mid-gestation were slightly shorter at World War II enlistment, and  $\geq 20\%$  excess CVD deaths after age 60; the most affected cohort was born in the first quarter of 1919 and had 25% excess CVD mortality; rheumatic or hypertensive heart disease mortality was unaffected (Mazumder et al. 2010). This analysis was based on findings from our collaborators that these maternal exposure cohorts had lifetime lower economic productivity and more work disability (Almond and Mazumder 2005). Although total mortality from infections has declined in developed countries, malaria and other chronic infections remain globally important.

Maternal and childhood obesity are new risk factors for later life CVD (Bjerregaard et al. 2019). From 1989 to 2007, maternal BMI greater than 30 Kg/m<sup>2</sup> (Heslehurst et al. 2010) in association with childhood obesity (Heslehurst et al. 2019). Maternal smoking also increases risk of childhood obesity by 60% (meta-analysis of 109,838 mother-child pairs; Riedel et al. 2014). Moreover, children have higher BMI in households with adult smokers or that are near major roadways (McConnell et al. 2015). The combined effect of roadway pollution and secondhand smoke was superadditive (synergistic) in this



and another study (Kim et al. 2014). The developmental toxicity of air pollution and cigarette smoke is globally documented (Vieira 2015; Finch 2018).

More broadly, the Human Developmental Exposome comprises maternal and childhood environmental factors in three levels (Wild 2012): exogenous macrolevel factors (e.g., air pollution, climate, socioeconomic status); exogenous individual factors (e.g., maternal diet, infection, psychosocial stress, smoking); and endogenous individual factors (biomes of gut, lung, and mouth; gender and disease risk genotypes). Most of these factors also engage inflammatory responses that are part of chronic degenerative diseases of arteries, bones, and brain.

#### THE INFLAMMATORY EXPOSOME ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN

Inflammatory processes of innate immunity are active in chronic diseases of aging that are the main causes of adult mortality: arterial degeneration, cancer, and dementia. Each disease develops slowly and interactions of inflammatory factors external to the organ. We outline several major factors in the Inflammatory Exposome.

#### ADIPOSE TISSUE

Obesity itself contributes to systemic inflammation, based on two lines of evidence (Johnson et al. 2012; Ellulu et al. 2017). First, fat tissues secrete inflammatory factors directly into the blood. In obese individuals, the venous blood effluent from fat depots is higher than from arterial blood for several acute phase inflammatory proteins including IL-6 and CRP (Calabro et al. 2005; Fontana et al. 2007; Madani et al. 2009). These findings include visceral and subcutaneous fat depots. Second, macrophage cells accumulate around adipocytes during obesity (Johnson et al. 2012). Although these obese subjects lacked clinical indications of infections, low-grade bacterial and viral infections could still contribute elevated cytokine production in adipose-embedded macrophages. With or without infections, we suggest that obesity be recognized as a major proinflammatory factor in the modern exposome that contributes

to major diseases of aging, including cancer (Kompella and Vasquez 2019), cardiovascular disease (Packer 2018), and dementia (Finch and Kulminski 2019), among other pathogenic processes of aging (Pérez et al. 2016).

#### AIR POLLUTION AND CIGARETTES IN AGING

Airborne toxins have global impacts on health throughout the life span, causing 12–20 million excess deaths per year worldwide (Table 7; Li et al. 2019b). The World Health Organization recognizes three main sources of mortality from airborne toxins: ambient air pollution (AAP), household air pollution (HAP), and cigarette smoke (CS; Table 7). AAP is a mixture of aerosols from natural and industrial origins with carbonaceous particles, minerals and salts, gases, and volatile chemicals. AAP from combustion of fossil fuels and biomass is the single largest environmental health risk worldwide (Landrigan et al. 2018). Indoor or indoor air pollution includes ingressing AAP, plus cigarette smoke, and smoke from household (domestic) burning of wood and dung for cooking and heating. Myriad chemicals also enter indoor air from paint, cleaning and household products, and fabrics (Finch 2018; Anonymous 2019; Madrugeta et al. 2019).

#### MORTALITY FROM AIRBORNE TOXINS

AAP from airborne particles and gases have an unstable composition: at most sites, the sources and composition of AAP vary widely during the day and by season. The primary emissions of particles and gases mingle and interact with other anthropogenic and natural sources, such as erosion of vehicular tires, body paint, and brake linings; dust from roads, agricultural fields, and deserts; chemical industries; and cigarette smoke and biomass smokes from brush fires and household cooking (Finch 2018; Forman and Finch 2018).

Three size classes of airborne particulate matter (PM) are defined by their aerodynamic diameter in microns ( $\mu$ ): coarse  $PM_{10}$ , fine  $PM_{2.5}$ , and ultrafine  $PM_{0.1}$ . Each size class includes all of the smaller sizes. Because most coarse PM are removed in the upper airways, the United States Environmental Protection



Agency (EPA) has focused on PM<sub>2.5</sub>, which penetrate deeply into lung alveoli. The EPA standards for PM<sub>2.5</sub> aim for an upper limit of 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, averaged over three years.

Until the 1860s, wood was the major fuel source in the U.S. when coal was increasingly available, soon succeeded by petroleum (Figure 6). From 1990 to 2015, the burden of disease due to airborne toxins increased: smoking remained the second leading cause, while ambient air pollution moved up to fifth (Cohen et al. 2017). Cattle also suffer air pollution, with up to 3% increased mortality, 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of PM<sub>10</sub> and ozone (Cox et al. 2016).

Although associations of mortality with AAP are now widely accepted, it took three decades after the London Smog of 1952 before cardiovascular mortality was definitively linked to air pollution of category PM<sub>2.5</sub> by the longitudinal U.S. Six Cities Study (Dockery et al. 1993; Rajagopalan et al. 2018). Local ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels are strongly associated with risk of most major conditions of aging, including cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer’s disease, and lung cancer (Table 8; Finch 2018). Cigarette smoke exposure increases these same chronic conditions. Moreover,

AAP, cigarette smoke, and infections have superadditive synergies on cardiovascular mortality, lung cancer, and cognitive decline.

GENE-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS

Increasing Female Advantages

During the great mortality declines of the 19th century, life spans of women began to expand faster than for men, starting from baselines of 1.1 F:M across Europe and North America (Beltrán-Sánchez et al. 2015). By the early 20th century, male mortality was twofold greater than for women. Our cohort analysis showed that, after 1870, mortality of women aged 40 to 80 years declined 70% faster than men, which progressively expanded the gap in life expectancy (Figure 7). Most women aged 40–80 are postreproductive, limiting the mortality contribution from childbirth. Pathogen-driven mortality was gradually replaced by accelerated cardiovascular disease from cigarette smoking that caused 35% of excess male mortality.

Infant mortality also shifted to greater male excess in these same countries, from baselines of 1.1 to greater than 1.25 by 1950

History of energy consumption in the United States, 1775-2009

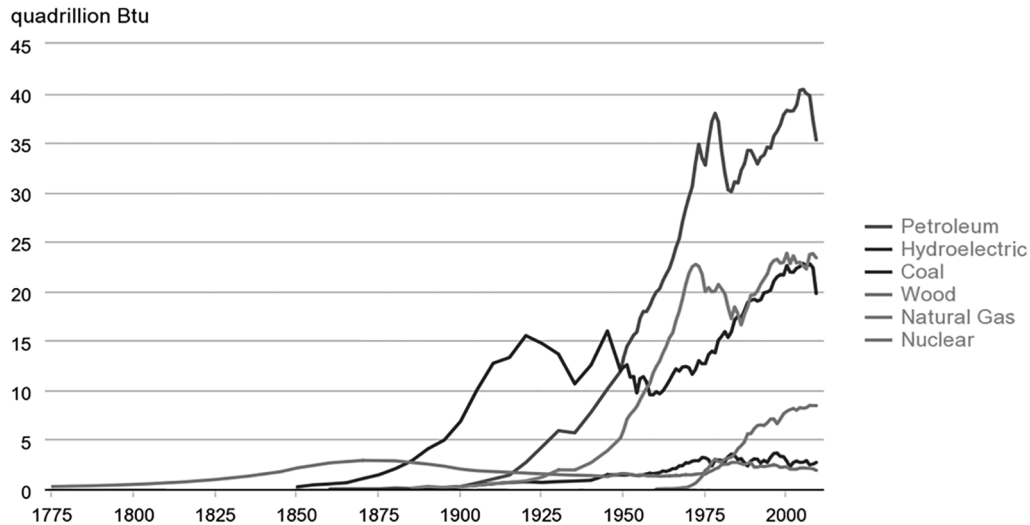


FIGURE 6. ENERGY USE IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1775

After 1900, wood fuels were progressively replaced by coal, and then to varying extents by natural gas, petroleum, and nuclear energy. United States Energy Information Administration 2011, 2016. See the online edition for a color version of this figure.

TABLE 8  
*Ambient air pollution (AAP), cigarette smoke (CS), and diseases of aging*

	AAP	CS	Synergy
Atherosclerosis	Aguilera et al. 2016;	Hansen et al. 2016;	
carotid intimal medial	Liu et al. 2015	Huang et al. 2016	
thickness (CIMT)			
coronary (CVD mortality)	Hartiala et al. 2016;	Benziger et al. 2016	1.1-fold excess
	Kaufman et al. 2016		Turner et al. 2017
Cancer of the lung	Hamra et al. 2014;	Doll et al. 2004;	2.2-fold excess
	Cui et al. 2015	Chen et al. 2015	Turner et al. 2014
Dementia, including	Cacciottolo et al. 2017;	Nunez et al. 2016;	
Alzheimer's disease	Chen et al. 2017	Barnes and Yaffee 2011	
Cognitive decline	Cacciottolo et al. 2017;		1.9-fold excess
	Zhang et al. 2018		Ailshire and Crimmins 2014
Obesity, BMI children	McConnell et al. 2015	Kim et al. 2014	

(Drevenstedt et al. 2008). Famine-related infant mortality had male excess (Zarulli et al. 2018). Although adult mortality is strongly influenced by lifestyle factors, infant mortality is dominated by biological factors. At the cell level, sex differences in stress resistance are well defined for neonatal and adult immune cells (Jaillon et al. 2019; Schurz et al. 2019), cardiomyocytes (Ross and Howlett 2012; Murphy et al. 2017), and vascular endothelia cells (Cattaneo et al. 2017). Correspondingly, women are less vulnerable to TB and other infections, and in autoimmune disorders (Jaillon et al. 2019; Schurz et al. 2019). The X chromosome has numerous immune-related genes, which undergo random inactivation for dose compensation in early embryogenesis, according to the Lyon hypothesis (1961). Schurz et al. (2019) suggest that female immune advantages may arise by gene mosaicism during X-inactivation. Expanding on the X-inactivation hypotheses of female immune function, the pregnancy compensation hypothesis suggests that females must be able to downregulate some aspects of immunity during pregnancy in order to facilitate placentation and fetal survival (Natri et al. 2019). Trends for fewer pregnancies in highly developed countries may have exacerbated higher rates of female autoimmune disorders (Natri et al. 2019).

APOE

The ancestral ApoE4 allele adversely impacts the life span, and arterial and brain

aging in populations with low levels of infections (Phase III). However, as discussed above, in several modern populations with high loads of infection and parasites, ApoE4 benefits cognition (Trumble et al. 2017) and survival of children and older adults (Oriá et al. 2007; Mitter et al. 2012; van Exel et al. 2017). ApoE2, the minor allele, lowers Alzheimer's disease risk and favors longevity relative to the majority ApoE3 allele (Kulminski et al. 2016; Abondio et al. 2019). ApoE alleles may have interacted with gender differences in mortality during the decline of infections, as mortality increased from cardiovascular disease of ApoE4 carriers who smoked (Talmud et al. 2005).

CIGARETTE-RESISTANCE GENES

Gene variants that increase resistance to cigarette smoke may be relevant to gene network adaptive for cooking and meat-eating. Recognizing that “not all smokers die young,” Levine and Crimmins (2014) identified gene variants (SNPs, GWAS) in cigarette survivors to age 80 in the U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Study (NHANES III). Not only did 22% more carriers of this SNP set reach ages 90–99 and 300% more reached age 100, they had 10% less cancer. Moreover, older cigarette survivors have the same mortality rates as same age never-smokers, and also had strong biomarkers for health (lung function, inflammation, blood HDL). The network of 215 genes included stress-resistance and longevity genes: FOXO, a transcription

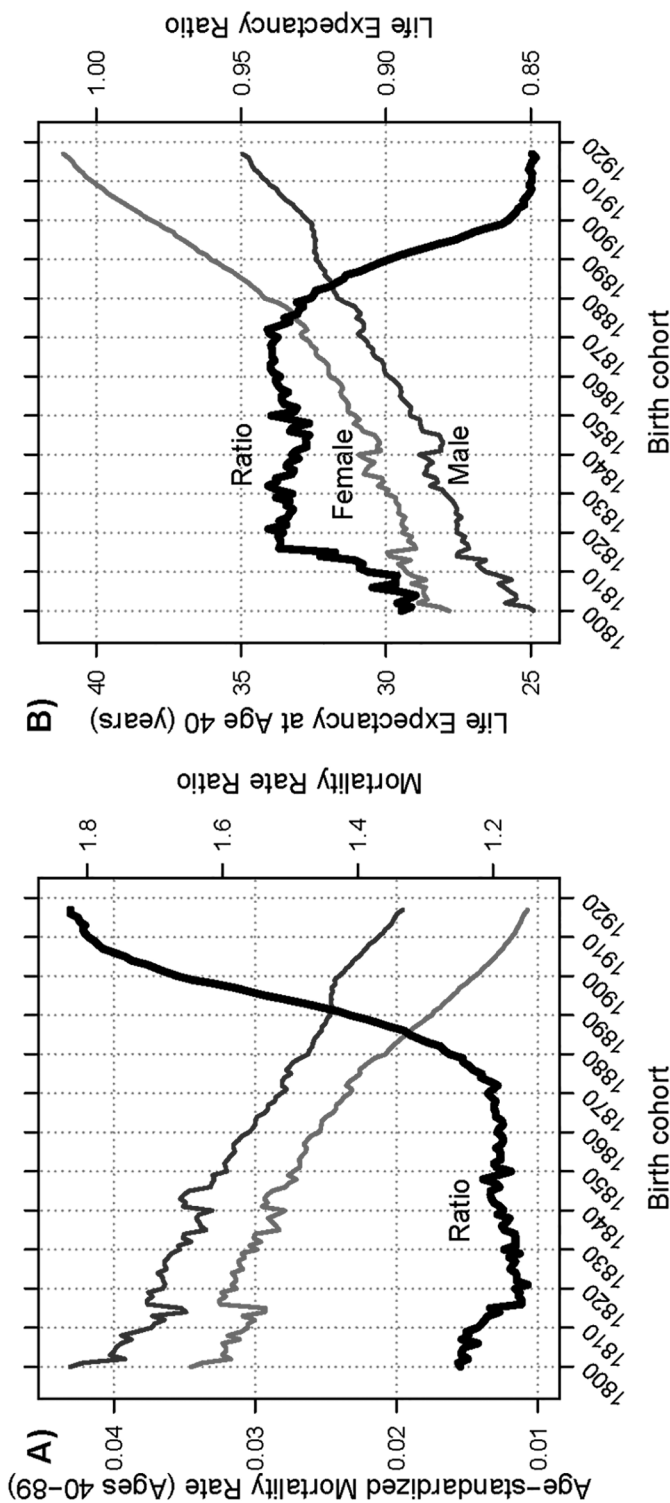


FIGURE 7. HISTORICAL COHORT SEX DIFFERENCES IN MORTALITY FOR AGES 40-90 YEARS  
Average of birth cohorts from eight European countries; Beltrán-Sánchez et al. 2015;Supplemental Figure 1. After 1870, mortality rates of women improved faster than men. A) Mortality rate averages. B) Life expectancy at age 40. See the online edition for a color version of this figure.

factor; insulin-like growth factors; and PI3K/AKT/mTOR of cell cycle and cancer. Frustratingly, ApoE alleles were not yet available for NHANES III.

Could cigarette-resistant genes also be gene candidates in the Evolutionary Exposome? FOXO3 and mTOR are among the subset of genes shared with cigarette-survivor SNPs that are also associated with longevity in multiple populations (Riera et al. 2016; Bae et al. 2018). In another approach, we examined brain mRNA responses in mice to air pollution nanoscale particles (PM<sub>0.2</sub>; A. Haghani and C. E. Finch, unpublished). A subset of 25 brain mRNA responses to PM<sub>0.2</sub> was shared with cigarette survivors SNPs. Induction of the Siglec gene CMAH in the brain by air pollution parallels its induction in liver by cooked food (Table 3; Carmody et al. 2011). These pilot data anticipate that other longevity genes will increase resistance to airborne toxicants in fossil fuels, cigarettes, and burning biomass.

#### EPIGENETICS OF POLLUTION

Epigenetic impact on DNA and histone methylation from maternal exposures to diet and toxins can persist into adult life and future generations (Li et al. 2019a), illustrated by select examples. Prenatal maternal smoking altered DNA methylation of a small group of genes. Effects persisted from birth into middle age for four genes that included the detoxifying enzymes CYP1A1 and AHRR, discussed in Phase II (1220 adults, prospective study of five birth cohorts; Wiklund et al. 2019). Offspring of mice from mothers fed a fatty diet had increased histone methylation of the adipokine gene and reduced mRNA in adipose tissue; these effects persisted on normal diets into the F1 (next) generation, disappearing by F3 (Masuyama et al. 2015). Conversely, early life exposure to the Chinese Famine of 1959–1961 increased DNA methylation of the insulin-related IF2G gene, observed in adults together with proportionately increased blood cholesterol (Shen et al. 2019). Cognition was slightly impaired in young adults of mothers who experienced this famine (Li et al. 2015).

Lead exposure epigenetic modifications can persist into the F2 generation. Grandchildren of mothers from Detroit with high neonatal blood levels of lead still showed hypermethylation of six genes (Sen et al. 2015). These F2 generation effects on DNA methylation support the prezygotic hypothesis for environmental influences: because the egg we came from was present in our mothers' ovaries before her birth, we were exposed to grandmaternal environmental influences (Finch and Loehlin 1998). Beyond grandchildren, maternal exposure of rats to the fungicide vinclozolin altered DNA methylation and obesity into the F3 generation (Nilsson et al. 2018). Further studies are needed to resolve cost-benefits of epigenetic responses. Toxin-induced changes may be adaptive for detoxification, while metabolic responses may be adaptive for diet uncertainty (Li et al. 2019a,b).

#### LONGEVITY GENES AND GXE

ApoE may be the first example of a longevity gene with documented GxE (gene-environment interactions). Identification of further longevity genes will depend on understanding their GxE interactions, as proposed by Hook et al. (2018), and also discussed for Alzheimer's disease (Finch and Kulminski 2019). Many longevity genes are shared broadly across short- and long-lived animals (Longo and Finch 2003; Hook et al. 2018; Khan et al. 2019). Curiously, chimpanzee genomes have not been considered for genes that might contribute to the human-evolved postreproductive phase of life span that is unique among hominids (Table 4).

Has the human gene pool changed during these major reductions of infant mortality and increased adult survival? Modern medicine has increased the survival of many with inherited diseases (Crocco et al. 2019; Ewald and Ewald 2019; Prohaska et al. 2019). For malarial sickle cell disease, autopsies showed that nearly one-half of 300 had died of infections (Manci et al. 2003). Effective treatments for sickle cell allele carriers (Mak-soud et al. 2018) will help maintain these and other adverse genes. Moreover, the expansion of neonatal intensive care units (NICUs)

after 1950 has increased survival of low-birth weight babies (Drevenstedt et al. 2008). Modern medicine, sanitation, and birth control may have relaxed natural selection for these and other special cases, but we lack population-based genetic data to show the impact on reproductive success.

#### SYNTHESIS PHASE V

In the last 200 years, human life expectancy has more than doubled from minimization of mortality from pathogenic infections throughout the life span. For the first time in human demographic history, 90% of births can reach age 70 in some populations with minimal infections. In contrast to these “health elites,” one-half or more of the world still suffers from malaria, HIV, and other infections that shorten life. The environmental impact of infections and malnutrition begins early. Historical cohort analysis shows the persisting impact of early life environmental insults on later life morbidity represented in two hypotheses: the cohort morbidity hypothesis that links early age and later age mortality trends (Finch and Crimmins 2004) and in fetal origins of adult disease that links fetal impairments to later chronic disease (Barker 1995). The Maternal Exposome gradually shifted from infectious pathogens and nutritional deficits to sterile inflammogens from maternal obesity and airborne toxins. The shift also altered GxE interactions, exemplified by the ApoE4 allele, which benefits early and later age survival and cognitive function with a high pathogen load, but has negative impact in healthy populations. The Future Exposome (Phase VI) portends regressive steps backward with global climate change to a worsening exposome with increased infections and airborne toxins.

#### THE FUTURE HUMAN EXPOSOME VI: 21ST–22ND CENTURIES

PLUS CLIMATE WARMING, HIGHER OZONE,  
CRUSTAL DUST, AND INSECT-BORNE  
INFECTIONS

Air pollution will increase into the 21st century as fossil fuel use continues. Fossil fuel production is predicted to increase another

30% through 2040 (Figure 6), with correspondingly increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Even with renewable energy, fossil fuels will remain the dominant global energy source beyond 2040 (U.S. Energy Information Administration 2016). Global climate changes will increase infections from redistribution of rainfall and water resources (Table 9).

In Table 9–1, warming promotes expansion of insect populations, particularly mosquito vectors of malaria and viruses. The expanding tick season is also increasing Lyme disease. In Table 9–2, rising sea levels may synergize with warming for mosquito-borne diseases in coastal zones of brackish waters. For Table 9–3, Decreased rainfall and deforestation are increasing; decreasing water needed for agriculture and human hygiene. In Table 9–4, major human migrations are anticipated, as drought reduces water for farmers and extreme heat limits habitability. Refugees are vulnerable to infections, fostered by poor hygiene, antibiotic resistance, malnutrition, and limited medical services. For Table 9–5, warming is increasing ozone levels that cause lung disease. And, finally, in Table 9–6, higher mortality from heat stress is a concern for children and the elderly. The need for air conditioning will increase demands for electrical power. We anticipate that health disparities will further widen with environmental degradation, between rich economies and their health elites versus rest of the world.

#### SUMMARY OF THE HUMAN EXPOSOME: FROM DUST TO DIESEL

Throughout hominin evolution, our ancestors encountered and adapted to diverse environmental hazards, many of which left genetic signatures. The evolutionary exposome analysis gives a new conceptualization of ecological exposures, beginning with inhaled natural aerosols of savanna mineral dust (PM<sub>10</sub>), followed by anthropogenic smaller inhaled smoke particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and eventually airborne toxins from tobacco and fossil fuels. We hypothesize that adaptations to ancient pathogens and airborne toxins may still be protective for some evolutionarily novel airborne pollutants from fossil fuels



TABLE 9  
*Climate change and health*

1. Warming and insect-borne diseases	The expansion of insect-borne infections with global warming is described in rigorous models (Wang and Zou 2018), e.g., dengue, yellow fever, and Zika by <i>Aedes aegypti</i> . Malaria is expanding globally (Flahault et al. 2016; Hundessa et al. 2018). The number of mosquito Disease Danger Days has increased in the U.S. since 1970, e.g., by 47 days in San Francisco (Langer et al. 2018). Arctic warming is associated with faster mosquito development (Culler et al. 2015). Lyme disease is expanding across temperate zones with the tick <i>Ixodes scapularis</i> (McPherson et al. 2017; Bouchard et al. 2018). At least one malaria resistance gene has become less effective: <i>Plasmodium vivax</i> has recently evolved a novel red cell invasion mechanism allowing it to infect FY*O gene carriers via other red cell proteins in two African populations (Niang et al. 2018; see Phase IV).
2. Rising seas, mosquito-borne infections	Insect populations are fostered by the expanding coastal brackish waters from rising seas (Ramasamy and Surendran 2016; Diem et al. 2017). In Sri Lanka, mosquito-borne dengue fever was linked to larval density in brackish waters (Ramasamy and Surendran 2012).
3. Dust from deforestation	Ambient dust is associated with surges of infectious diseases. African and Asian dust can carry a high density of viable bacteria (Phase I). In the southwestern U.S., Valley fever is associated with dust storms that increased 2.4-fold since 1990 (Tong et al. 2017), while the African “meningitis belt” is strongly associated with seasonal surges of Saharan dust (Pérez García-Pando et al. 2014; Woringer et al. 2018). Saharan dust is seasonally transported to the Caribbean and southeastern U.S. (Conway et al. 2019).
4. Migrations from drought and heat	Refugee camps are vulnerable to infections, fostered by antibiotic resistance, poor hygiene, malnutrition, and limited medical services (Nellums et al. 2018; Schwartz and Morris 2018). African and Asian refugee camps are rife with cholera (Golicha et al. 2018) and respiratory viruses (Wu et al. 2019). Asylum seekers in Germany had severalfold more antibiotic resistance genes than native controls, including two genes absent from controls (Häsler et al. 2018).
5. Ozone and respiratory disease	Ozone elevations are strongly associated with asthma. In the Central Valley of California, interquartile elevations of ozone increased emergency room visits for asthma in children (OR 1.22) and adults (OR 1.1) by 10% (Gharibi et al. 2018). Ozone levels also surge during heat events, with particular impact to urban inhabitants (Diem et al. 2017). Global warming will inevitably increase ozone because its chemical production responds linearly to temperature (Steiner et al. 2010), e.g., Los Angeles ozone levels varied daily by twofold across the ambient temperatures of 22 to 32°C.
6. Mortality from heat stress	Cities are “urban heat islands” with ambient temperatures above rural areas with more foliage and lower density traffic. Extreme temperatures are predicted to increase mortality from heat stress by up to twentyfold in Africa and the Middle East (Diem et al. 2017; Ahmadalipour and Moradkhani 2018), with lesser but still major increases of mortality predicted for temperate zones (Eisenman et al. 2016; McLean et al. 2018). Air conditioning (AC) needs will increase, with corresponding demand for electrical power from fossil fuels and increasing air pollution. AC for vulnerable populations is already insufficient, but building design and urban planning can partly ameliorate needs for AC (Lundgren-Kownacki et al. 2018).

and cigarettes, while some genes such as ApoE4 became deleterious as our environments changed faster than our genetics (Figure 8).

The inflammatory responses to airborne toxins from cigarettes and fossil fuels are shared with the pathophysiology of chronic diseases currently associated with air pollution, cigarette smoke, and infection, which cause about 16 million excess deaths per year (range 12–20 million). We hypothesize that genetic adaptations to ancient airborne

toxins may play important roles in ameliorating the effects of exposures today, including survival of some elderly lifetime cigarette smokers. This synthesis summarizes known exposures to pathogens, diet, and chemicals in relation to specific gene changes during human evolution, and hypothesizes about potential exposures and hazards that humans will face in the coming century. We anticipate that interactions between infection, indoor and outdoor air pollution, cigarette smoke, and other environmental exposures

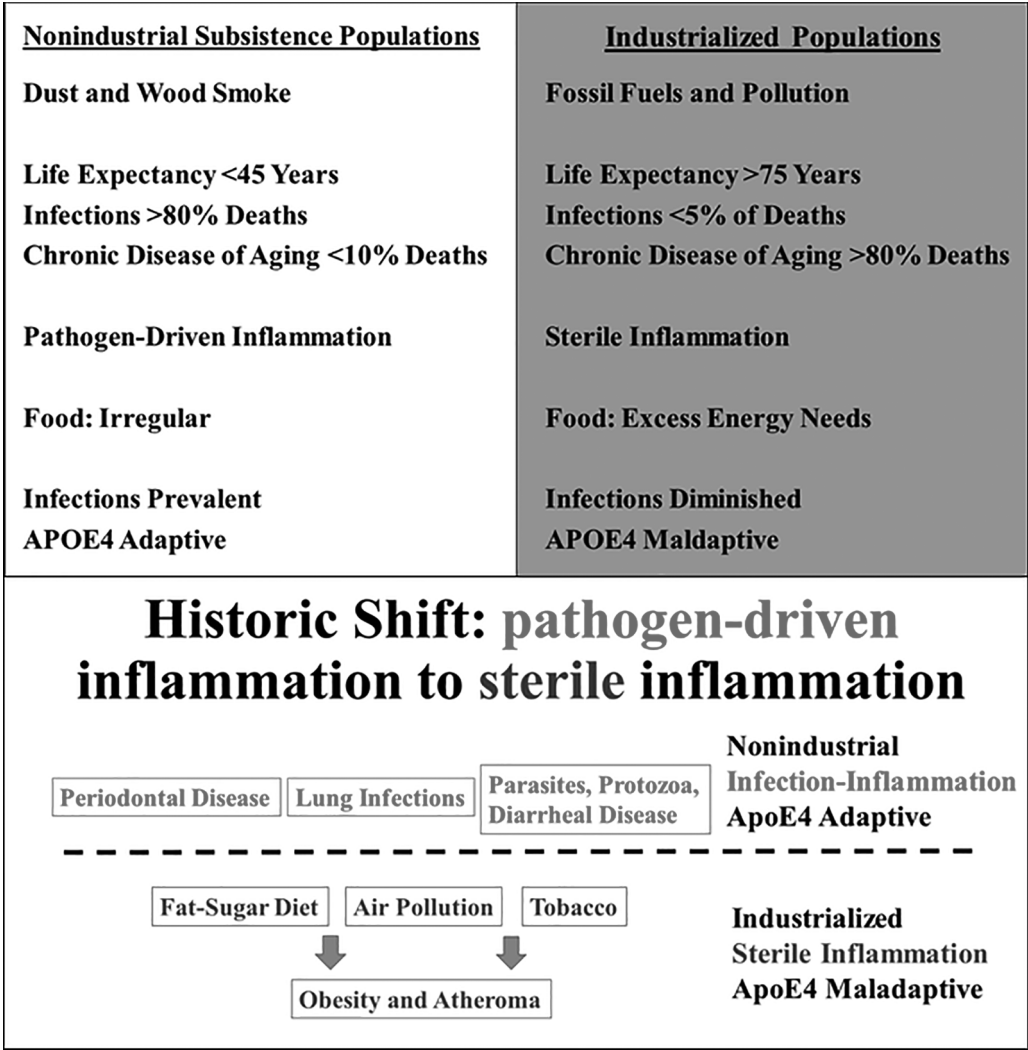


FIGURE 8. SHIFTS OF MORTALITY FROM PATHOGEN-DRIVEN INFLAMMATION TO STERILE INFLAMMOGENS DURING INDUSTRIALIZATION

Panel A: Industrialization was associated with shifts from mortality caused by infections and pathogen-driven inflammation to chronic low-grade inflammation from sterile inflammogens. Panel B: Health changes during industrialization shifted endogenous sites of inflammation: premodern sites above the dotted line included chronic infections of the mouth (periodontal disease), lung, and gastrointestinal tract. Modern sites of sterile inflammogens include fat depots and atheromas. Under most conditions of sterile inflammogens, ApoE4 is maladaptive. See the online edition for a color version of this figure.

will result in long-term damage to human health, with additive if not synergistic effects. ApoE4 might regain adaptive value with recurrence of global infections. Other ancient genes that were adaptive to xenotoxins in dust, smoke, and other environmental exposures may still be adaptive for current and future generations. Understanding the full breadth and history of the human exposome will inform the future of human health and longevity during the emerging ecological shifts from dust to diesel and beyond.

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APPENDIX TABLE 1  
*Genes in human-specific DNA segment duplications (HSD)*

	Brain	Immunity	Other
Phase IA, Pre- <i>Homo</i> 5.3–4.7 MYA	HIST2H2BE	CD88, Rock1B, FCGR1B	Cholesterol (HDL) PDZK1B
Phase IB, Pre- <i>Homo</i> 3.3–2.5 MYA	SRGAP, FAM72 (4), HYDIN2	FCGR1C	
Phase II, <i>Homo</i> 2.4–0.6 MYA	SRGAP2C, <i>GPRIN2B</i> , GRIN2B gluR NPY4RB food intake TCAF2, CHR FAM7A, CHR FAM72 HIST2HD	FCGRD1	Vascular (OCLN)
Phase III, 0.3 MYA	NAIP-C, DUSP22B SMN2, SERF1B, TCAF2B	DUSP22B, NCF1C TCF1B	Muscle SERF1

Data from Dennis et al. 2017, Figure 2. We defined three clusters in the timing of HSD: 5.3–4.7 MYA (seven genes); 3.3–2.3 MYA (12 genes); and 1.9–0.3 MYA (39 genes). These duplicated genes did not show disruptive mutations that would block transcription or translation, but expression by cell type is not fully characterized.