

## LENGTH OF HUMAN TELOMERES

“Short telomeres cause age-related disease and long telomeres predispose to cancer”. This is the first sentence of the abstract of a recent article published by Karimian et al. in Science (1). As highlighted in earlier posts, the “trade-off” situation is quite common in biology.

Using long-read sequence technology, the authors obtained unprecedented information on telomeres of 147 individuals. The main finding is that specific telomere length is conserved across individuals. Furthermore, the telomeres of 4q, 12q and 3p are the longest, while those of 17p, 20q and 12p are the shortest, and these differences are already present at birth.

1.[https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.ado0431?url\\_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr\\_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr\\_dat=cr\\_pub%20%20pubmed](https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.ado0431?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%20%20pubmed)