

## SCIENCE HAS NO DOGMAS

In an earlier post the paper by Klunk et al., published in Nature (1), was reported as a good example of a trade-off between evolution and diseases. The authors analyzed DNA from people living before, during and after Black Death in the London area and in Denmark. They found a strong selection for protective variants, particularly of the gene *ERAP2* and suggested that individuals homozygous for this variant had 40% higher chance of survival! The authors concluded: “*Finally, we show that protective variants overlap with alleles that are today associated with increased susceptibility to autoimmune diseases...*”.

Now, a paper published in Science Advances by Hui et al. (2) reports a similar study in the Cambridgeshire area. They conclude: “we find no evidence of major changes in genetic ancestry nor higher differentiation of immune loci between cohorts living before and after the Black Death”.

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9580435/>
2. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adi5903>