The article I selected is “Nature Is Still Molding Human Genes, Study Finds” from the New York Times, written by Carl Zimmer. The article claims that humans are still evolving, and many traits we see today have developed within the last 10,000 years or so, as opposed to humans having not changed at all in the same timeframe. The study claims, “The B allele rose from approximately 0% to approximately 10% over the past approximately 6,000 years ($s = 2.7\%$, $\pi > 99\%$), and was matched by a concomitant decrease in A frequency.” (Akbari, 2026.)

Examining DNA from a number of ancient human bones, scientists found a number of genes that have changed in the last 10,000 years, such as genes relating to blood type, celiac disease, and risk of tuberculosis, among other things. However, some scientists are unconvinced, as there are so many genes that scientists argue were controlled by genetic drift, or “polygenic selection.” This includes things like alcohol and tobacco use, and even how long someone spends in school.

Unfortunately, the data is relatively limited, as most of the data on ancient human bones comes from Europe. There is less data from elsewhere in the world, however, this is changing. Scientists in China are working on a similar study, and are finding the same correlations between the older genes and modern ones as found in the original study.

The article ends stating that scientists are still unwinding the mysteries of how our genetics influence our health, reminding us that knowing a link between a gene and a disease and how it evolved can answer important questions about history and health, giving us a clearer picture of our history, and a better view of how we should care for our bodies today.

Works cited

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