

1 **Evolution of cytokine production capacity in ancient and modern European**
2 **populations**

3 *Short title: Evolution of cytokine production in Europeans*

4 Jorge Domínguez-Andrés^{1,2,*}, Yunus Kuijpers^{3,4*}, Olivier B. Bakker⁵, Martin Jaeger^{1,2},
5 Cheng-Jian Xu^{1,3,4}, Jos W.M. van der Meer¹, Mattias Jakobsson^{6,7}, Jaume Bertranpetit⁸,
6 Leo A.B. Joosten^{1,2}, Yang Li^{1,2,3,4,#}, Mihai G. Netea^{1,2,9,10,#}

7 Affiliations:

8 ¹Department of Internal Medicine and Radboud Center for Infectious diseases (RCI),
9 Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Geert Grooteplein 8, 6500HB Nijmegen,
10 the Netherlands.

11 ²Radboud Institute for Molecular Life Sciences (RIMLS), Radboud University Medical
12 Center, 6525, GA, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

13 ³Department of Computational Biology for Individualised Infection Medicine, Centre for
14 Individualised Infection Medicine (CiiM), a joint venture between Helmholtz-Centre for
15 Infection Research (HZI) and the Hannover Medical School (MHH), Hannover,
16 Germany

17 ⁴TWINCORE, Centre for Experimental and Clinical Infection Research, a joint venture
18 between Helmholtz-Centre for Infection Research (HZI) and the Hannover Medical
19 School (MHH), Hannover, Germany

20 ⁵Department of Genetics, University Medical Centre Groningen, Nijmegen, The
21 Netherlands.

22 ⁶Human Evolution, Department of Organismal Biology, Uppsala University, Uppsala,
23 Sweden.

24 ⁷Centre for Anthropological Research, Department of Anthropology and Development
25 Studies, University of Johannesburg, Auckland Park, South Africa.

26 ⁸Institut de Biologia Evolutiva (UPF-CSIC), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Dr. Aiguader 88,
27 08003 Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

28 ⁹Department for Genomics & Immunoregulation, Life and Medical Sciences Institute
29 (LIMES), University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany

30 ¹⁰Lead contact

31 *These authors contributed equally to the manuscript

32 #These authors share senior authorship

33 Correspondence: mihai.netea@radboudumc.nl, Yang.Li@helmholtz-hzi.de

34

35 **Abstract**

36 As our ancestors migrated throughout the different continents, natural selection
37 increased the presence of alleles advantageous in the new environments. Heritable
38 variations that alter the susceptibility to diseases vary with the historical period, the
39 virulence of the infections, and their geographical spread. In this study we built
40 polygenic scores for heritable traits influencing the genetic adaptation in the production
41 of cytokines and immune-mediated disorders, including infectious, inflammatory, and
42 autoimmune diseases, and applied them to the genomes of several ancient European
43 populations. We observed that the advent of the Neolithic was a turning point for
44 immune-mediated traits in Europeans, favoring those alleles linked with the
45 development of tolerance against intracellular pathogens and promoting inflammatory
46 responses against extracellular microbes. These evolutionary patterns are also
47 associated with an increased presence of traits related to inflammatory and auto-
48 immune diseases.

49

50 **Introduction**

51 Human history has been shaped by infectious diseases. Human genes, especially host
52 defense genes, have been constantly influenced by the pathogens encountered
53 (Fumagalli and Sironi, 2014; Karlsson et al., 2014; Quintana-Murci and Clark, 2013).
54 Pathogens drive the selection of genetic variants affecting resistance or tolerance to
55 the infection, and heritable variations that increase survival to diseases with high
56 morbidity and mortality will be naturally selected in people before reproductive age
57 (Karlsson et al., 2014). These selection signatures vary with historical period, virulence
58 of the pathogen, and the geographical spread.

59 Here we investigated the historical evolutionary patterns leading to genetic adaptation
60 in cytokine production and immune-mediated diseases, including infectious,
61 inflammatory, and autoimmune diseases. Cytokine production capacity is a key
62 component of the host defense mechanisms: it induces inflammation, activates
63 phagocytes to eliminate the pathogens and present antigens, and controls induction of
64 T-helper adaptive immune responses. We have therefore chosen to investigate the
65 evolutionary trajectories of cytokine production capacity in modern human populations
66 during history. To determine the difference in polygenic regulation of diseases and
67 cytokine production capacity, we used data derived from the 500 Functional Genomics
68 (500FG) cohort of the Human Functional Genomics Project (HFGP;
69 <http://www.humanfunctionalgenomics.org>). The HFGP is an international collaboration
70 aiming to identify the host and environmental factors responsible for the variability of
71 human immune responses in health and disease (Netea et al., 2016). Within the HFGP
72 project, the 500FG study generated a large database of immunological, phenotypic and
73 multi-omics data from a cohort of 534 individuals of Western-European ancestry, which
74 have been used to integrate the impact of genetic and environmental factors on
75 cytokine production and immune parameters. We subsequently deciphered the factors
76 that influence inter-individual variation in the immune responses against different

77 stimuli (Bakker et al., 2018; Li et al., 2016; Schirmer et al., 2016; Ter Horst et al.,
78 2016).

79

80 **Results and Discussion**

81 Peripheral blood mononuclear cells from these individuals were challenged with
82 bacterial, fungal, viral and non-microbial stimuli, and six cytokines (TNF α , IL-1 β , IL-6,
83 IL-17, IL-22 and IFN γ) were measured at 24h or 7 days after stimulation, generating
84 105 cytokine-stimulation pairs (Fig. S1 and Table S1). We correlated cytokine
85 production with genetic variant data to obtain cytokine quantitative trait loci (QTLs),
86 which were employed to compute and compare the polygenic risk score (PRS) of the
87 genomes of 827 individuals from different human historical eras (early upper
88 Paleolithic, late upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, post-Neolithic) which were
89 downloaded from version 37.2 of the compiled dataset containing unimputed published
90 ancient genotypes ([https://reich.hms.harvard.edu/downloadable-genotypes-present-](https://reich.hms.harvard.edu/downloadable-genotypes-present-day-and-ancient-dna-data-compiled-published-papers)
91 [day-and-ancient-dna-data-compiled-published-papers](https://reich.hms.harvard.edu/downloadable-genotypes-present-day-and-ancient-dna-data-compiled-published-papers)), and 250 modern Europeans
92 randomly selected from the European 1000G cohort (see accompanying manuscript by
93 Kuijpers et al.). We then investigated how the PRS changes over time by constructing
94 linear models and performing correlation analysis. In order to account for the ancient
95 DNA samples being pseudo-haploid, ambiguous SNPs (A/T and C/G) were excluded
96 when computing PRS to prevent errors due to strand flips. PRS was computed using
97 the most significant QTLs that had a P value lower than our predetermined threshold
98 for each given trait and removing all variants within a 250kb window around these
99 variants. The dosage of these variants was multiplied by their effect size while the
100 dosage of missing variants in a sample were supplemented with the average dosage.
101 Finally, we scaled the PRS to a range of -1 and 1 and correlated the scores of the
102 samples with their respective carbon dated age. In order to verify the robustness of our
103 results we repeated the analysis at multiple threshold combinations for variant

104 missingness and QTL thresholds. Furthermore, an analysis-based down-sampling
105 approach shows that the trajectories observed in our results are consistent regardless
106 of the sample size (Fig. S2). A schematic representation of the steps performed is
107 shown in Fig. S3.

108

109 Applying the methodology described above, several patterns were apparent (Fig. 1).
110 The first overall observation is that the estimation of cytokine production capacity
111 based on PRS shows significant differences between populations in various historical
112 periods, and the strength of evolutionary pressure on cytokine responses was different
113 before and after the Neolithic revolution. We did not observe significant changes in
114 cytokine production capacity between individuals who lived at different historical
115 periods before the Neolithic, whereas strong pressure is apparent after adoption of
116 agriculture and animal domestication in Europe. This different pattern may have
117 resulted from the more limited number of samples available for the older time periods,
118 resulting in lower statistical power, but the presence of some evolutionary pressure
119 also before the Neolithic argues that this is most likely not the full explanation. The
120 development of agriculture and domestication of animals in the Neolithic increased
121 population densities on the one hand, and the contact between humans and
122 domesticated animals as source of pathogens on the other hand. The number of
123 zoonoses increases dramatically (examples being tuberculosis, brucellosis, Q-fever,
124 and influenza), which strongly increased the selective pressure and caused significant
125 adaptations of immunity at the genetic level (Flandroy et al., 2018). Most of the genetic
126 adaptations to pathogens took place in the period since modern humans abandoned
127 their hunting-gathering lifestyle and developed agriculture (Deschamps et al., 2016). In
128 this respect, the strongest changes leading to tolerance (decreased cytokine
129 production) were exerted in the cytokine responses to intracellular zoonotic infections
130 (tuberculosis and *Coxiella*) (Fig. 1). In contrast, responses to the extracellular

131 pathogens *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Candida albicans* indicate increased resistance,
132 with high production of IL-22 and TNF α , respectively. The increased response to the
133 important fungal pathogen *C. albicans* after the Neolithic period is validated also at
134 transcriptional level. Overall, these patterns are reminiscent of the studies showing that
135 human immune responses need to adapt to a new landscape of infectious agents
136 depending on geographical location and types of microbe encountered (Ferwerda et
137 al., 2007). Such different patterns were most likely encountered also through history.

138 Importantly, our results also show significant patterns in the changes of the production
139 of specific cytokines during history. The resistance against intracellular pathogens
140 increased after Neolithic with higher IFN γ responses (see Fig.1): indeed, it is known
141 that Th1-IFN γ responses are crucial for the host defense against intracellular
142 pathogens such as mycobacteria or *Coxiella* (Thakur et al., 2019). In addition, the
143 resistance to the extracellular pathogens *C. albicans* and *S. aureus* is also increased
144 after this Neolithic era, with TNF α and IFN γ production increasing steadily after. These
145 two cytokines are very well known to be important for anti-*Candida* and anti-
146 *Staphylococcus* host defense (Chan et al., 2018; Domínguez-Andrés et al., 2017). On
147 the other hand, a different pattern emerges in relation with the IL1 β -IL6-IL17 axis: the
148 production of these cytokines is decreasing after Neolithic (see Figs. 1a and 1b). In this
149 context, the decrease through time of poly I:C induction of cytokines, as a model of
150 viral stimulation, is intriguing but potentially very important: many important viruses
151 such as influenza and coronaviruses (SARS, MERS, and SARS-CoV-2) exert life-
152 threatening effects through induction of cytokine-mediated hyperinflammation (also
153 termed “cytokine storm”) (Tay et al., 2020): evolutionary processes to curtail this
154 exaggerated responses are thus likely to be protective, and tolerance against viruses
155 become a host defense mechanism (Diard and Hardt, 2017).

156 These evolutionary genetic adaptations to pathogens throughout human history greatly
157 influence the way we respond to multiple diseases in modern times as well. To assess

158 these effects, we calculated the PRS associated with the risk of several highly
159 prevalent immune mediated diseases. The first focus was on common infectious
160 diseases such as malaria, HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis and chronic viral hepatitis; we
161 calculated the changes in susceptibility to these diseases in the last 50.000 years of
162 human history, based on summary statistics from genome-wide association studies
163 (GWAS) databases available from the literature (Fig. S3). Our results show that
164 humans are becoming more resistant to these diseases, with the notable exception of
165 tuberculosis, whose risk score remained stable along the period studied (Fig. 2). These
166 results suggest that humans have built up a genetic makeup which made them more
167 resistant to a variety of microbes. The pattern of this adaptation is very interesting as
168 well, with a suggested decrease of susceptibility to malaria especially in the last 10.000
169 years. The reason for this accelerated resistance after Neolithic might be linked to
170 higher disease prevalence due to increased populations density, as otherwise
171 *Plasmodium* parasites are known to have circulated in Africa since at least the
172 Paleogene 30 million years ago (Poinar, 2005), and we have likely inherited it from
173 gorillas(Liu et al., 2010). Intriguingly, we also observe a strong decrease in
174 susceptibility to HIV: this is a contemporary pathogen, therefore this signal could be
175 due to common genetic and immune pathways with other infections that were present
176 in human populations. The increased resistance to HIV in Europeans may be derived
177 from selective pressures induced by other pathogens such as *Yersinia pestis* (Duncan
178 et al., 2005). Our data suggest on the other hand that the source of this increased
179 resistance is even older.

180 In contrast, the lack of genetic adaptation in the susceptibility to tuberculosis is
181 intriguing. This surprising finding may be explained by a concept in which *M.*
182 *tuberculosis* is at the same time a pathogen and a symbiont, in which latent infection
183 enhances the resistance against other pathogens and this is why our immune system
184 tolerates mycobacterial presence (Pai et al., 2016). In this regard, individuals with

185 latent TB exhibit enhanced macrophage functions that may protect against other
186 pathogens through the induction of trained immunity (Joosten et al., 2018). In this
187 context humanity may not be adapting to tuberculosis because increased resistance
188 against mycobacteria is not evolutionarily advantageous. All in all, these results
189 suggest that the risk of suffering infectious diseases has steadily decreased at least for
190 the last 50000 years as a result of the selection of genetic variants which confer
191 resistance to infections.

192 It has been proposed that the increased prevalence of inflammatory and autoimmune
193 diseases is associated with the immune-related alleles that have been positively
194 selected through evolutionary processes to protect against infections, hence the
195 contrasting differences in the prevalence of autoimmune diseases between populations
196 results from diverse selective pressures (Ramos et al., 2015). In line with this, it has
197 been hypothesized that genetic variants associated with protection against infectious
198 agents are behind the increased prevalence of autoimmune diseases in populations
199 with low pathogen exposure, such as Europeans (Fumagalli et al., 2011; Raj et al.,
200 2013). To study the changing patterns of susceptibility to autoimmune and
201 inflammatory disease during history, we used publicly available summary statistics from
202 GWAS of digestive tract-related autoimmune and inflammatory diseases and arthritis-
203 related diseases (Fig. S4) and calculated the PRS for each of samples under study.
204 Interestingly, we observed a robust increase of the genetic variants related with the
205 development of inflammatory diseases in the digestive tract after the Neolithic
206 revolution (Fig. 3). PRS scores associated with celiac disease, Crohn's disease,
207 ulcerative colitis and inflammatory bowel disease, were strongly associated with the
208 age of the samples, regardless of the P value thresholds or the missing genotype rates
209 used for PRS calculation, showing the robustness of these results (Fig. S2). The fact
210 that especially intestinal inflammatory pathology is increased after a historical event
211 that fundamentally modified human diet is unlikely to be an accident. Our results are in

212 line with earlier research demonstrating that variants in genes important for immune
213 responses and involved in celiac disease pathophysiology (such as IL-12, IL-18RAP,
214 SH2B3) are under strong positive selection (Zhernakova et al., 2010). The reasons for
215 the selection pressure on these genes are not completely understood, but an
216 advantage for host defense has been suggested (Zhernakova et al., 2010).

217 In contrast to intestinal inflammation, the PRS of traits linked with juvenile-idiopathic
218 arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis shows a decrease in genetic
219 susceptibility with the age of the sample after the Neolithic revolution. For pre-Neolithic
220 periods, these patterns had little impact with decreasing PRS for digestive tract
221 diseases and increasing PRS for ankylosing spondylitis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis.
222 A strong decrease in susceptibility to juvenile idiopathic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis
223 and multiple sclerosis is seen after the Neolithic period (see Fig. 3). This is likely linked
224 to the decreased production of the IL-1/IL-6/IL-17 axis described in Fig. 2, which is
225 particularly important in the pathophysiology of these disorders (Akioka, 2019; Mei et
226 al., 2011).

227 The significant changes in cytokine production and disease susceptibility in European
228 populations after the Neolithic can be due to selective processes on the one hand (as
229 described above), but also with important demographic changes due to migrations of
230 human communities such as the Anatolians (in Neolithic) or the Yamnaya populations
231 from the Pontic steppe (during the Bronze Age) (Racimo et al., 2020). In this regard,
232 several loci associated with inflammatory disease displayed a group alleles linked with
233 Crohn's disease, celiac disease and ulcerative colitis in Neolithic Aegeans, the
234 community who spread farming across Europe (Hofmanová et al., 2016), with several
235 of these alleles showing signs of positive selection in modern Europeans (Raj et al.,
236 2013). In addition, the gene expression PRS of several cytokines based on the *cis*- and
237 *trans*- eQTLs from the eQTLGen Consortium (<https://www.eqtlgen.org/>) displayed a
238 very strong association with time for TNF α after the Neolithic revolution (Fig. 4).

239

240 Collectively, our results show that the advent of the Neolithic era was a turning point for
241 the evolution of immune-mediated traits in European populations, driving the expansion
242 of alleles that favor the development of tolerance against intracellular pathogens and
243 promote inflammatory responses against extracellular microbes. This is associated with
244 a higher presence of genetic traits related with inflammatory and auto-immune
245 diseases of the digestive tract and a lower number of alleles linked with the
246 development of arthritis. Further research should compare the trends in different
247 populations that have been exposed to different environments across the planet and
248 clarify the influence of ancestry, time, rural vs. urban lifestyle to shed light on the
249 influence of the infectious environment in genetics and human evolution.

250

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257

258 **Author contributions**

259 JDA, YK, OBB and MJ designed and performed experiments and analysed the data.
260 JDA and YK wrote the first draft of the manuscript with all authors contributing to writing
261 and providing feedback. MJ, CJX, JWMvdM, LABJ and JB provided guidance and
262 advice. YL and MGN conceived ideas, designed experiments, offered supervision and
263 oversaw the research program.

264

265 **Declaration of Interests**

266 The authors declare no competing interests.

267

268 **Methods**

269 Cohort selection

270 Ancient DNA genotype data was downloaded from version 37.2 of the published aDNA
271 genotype database, compiled by and available on the David Reich Lab website
272 ([https://reich.hms.harvard.edu/downloadable-genotypes-present-day-and-ancient-dna-](https://reich.hms.harvard.edu/downloadable-genotypes-present-day-and-ancient-dna-data-compiled-published-papers)
273 [data-compiled-published-papers](https://reich.hms.harvard.edu/downloadable-genotypes-present-day-and-ancient-dna-data-compiled-published-papers)). The ancient DNA samples consisted of pseudo-
274 haploid genotype data. This was due to the low genotyping coverage. Samples with
275 variant missingness above 96 percent were filtered out using Plink (Purcell et al.,
276 2007). This was done in order to remove outliers with extremely low coverage. Only
277 samples within Europe were used for this study, these samples were selected based
278 on their geographic location, that is latitude (within 35 and 70 degrees north) and
279 longitude (within 10 degrees west and 40 degrees east). Samples without a carbon-
280 dated age were also filtered out. We also selected 250 European samples from the
281 1000 genomes project phase 3. Only variants present in both the ancient samples and
282 the modern samples were retained. This resulted in a dataset of 827 ancient samples
283 and 250 modern samples containing 1233013 variants.

284

285 Carbon-dated sample origin and geographical location

286 Both carbon-dated age of origin as well as latitudinal and longitudinal data was
287 available for these 827 ancient European samples. Broad time periods were assigned
288 to these samples with the Early Upper Paleolithic era for all samples originating from

289 before 25000 years before the common era standardized to 1950 (BCE). The Late
290 Upper Paleolithic era follows until 11000 BCE. The Mesolithic era ranges from 11000 to
291 5500 BCE. The Neolithic era ranges from 8500 to 3900 BCE, and the Post-Neolithic
292 era ranges from 5000 BCE and more recent ages. Using the geographical data in
293 combination with archeological clues and the genetic data, the broad time period of
294 origin was also available for samples that were dated to a point in time with overlapping
295 broad time periods. This allowed the samples to be classified as either Early Upper
296 Paleolithic, Late Upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, or Post-Neolithic. The sample
297 age of the 250 modern European samples was set to 0.

298

299 Summary statistics of GWAS and cytokine QTLs

300 Summary statistics for complex traits were obtained from the UK Biobank (Bycroft et
301 al., 2018) and the GWAS catalog (MacArthur et al., 2017) last accessed on 29th of
302 March 2020. The stimulated cytokine response summary statistics from the 500FG
303 cohort of the HFGP were used (Li et al., 2016). Some complex traits had multiple
304 different sets of summary statistics available. In these cases, the data which was more
305 recent and used bigger cohorts that were either of European or mixed (European and
306 Asian) ancestry were selected. The variants of these summary statistics were then
307 filtered by only keeping bi-allelic variants. Most aDNA genotypes available are pseudo-
308 haploid as a consequence of their lower sample quality. We excluded ambiguous SNPs
309 (A/T and C/G) in order to prevent errors due to strand flips present in these pseudo-
310 haploid samples.

311

312 Polygenic Risk Scores (PRS) calculation

313 Polygenic risk scores were then calculated by first intersecting the filtered variants from
314 the summary statistics with the variants present in the DNA samples. Starting at the

315 most significant variant, all variants within a 250kb window around that variant were
316 excluded until no variants remained. We then multiplied the dosage of these variants
317 with the effect size and these values were summed. If a variant is missing in a sample
318 the dosage is substituted with the average genotyped dosage for that variant within the
319 entire dataset. This way the PRS is not skewed in any specific direction. The formula
320 for this is described below with the score S being the weighted sum of a variant's
321 dosage X_n multiplied by its associated weight or beta β_n calculated using m variants.

$$S = \sum_{n=1}^m X_n \beta_n$$

322

323 Piecewise correlation analysis

324 We constructed piecewise linear models for each trait by separating the samples into
325 two groups. These two groups consisted of all samples preceding the Neolithic era and
326 those of the Neolithic era and later respectively. We correlated PRS with the carbon
327 dated age of our samples. We then multiplied the $-\log_{10}$ of the correlation P values
328 with the sign of the correlation coefficients.

329

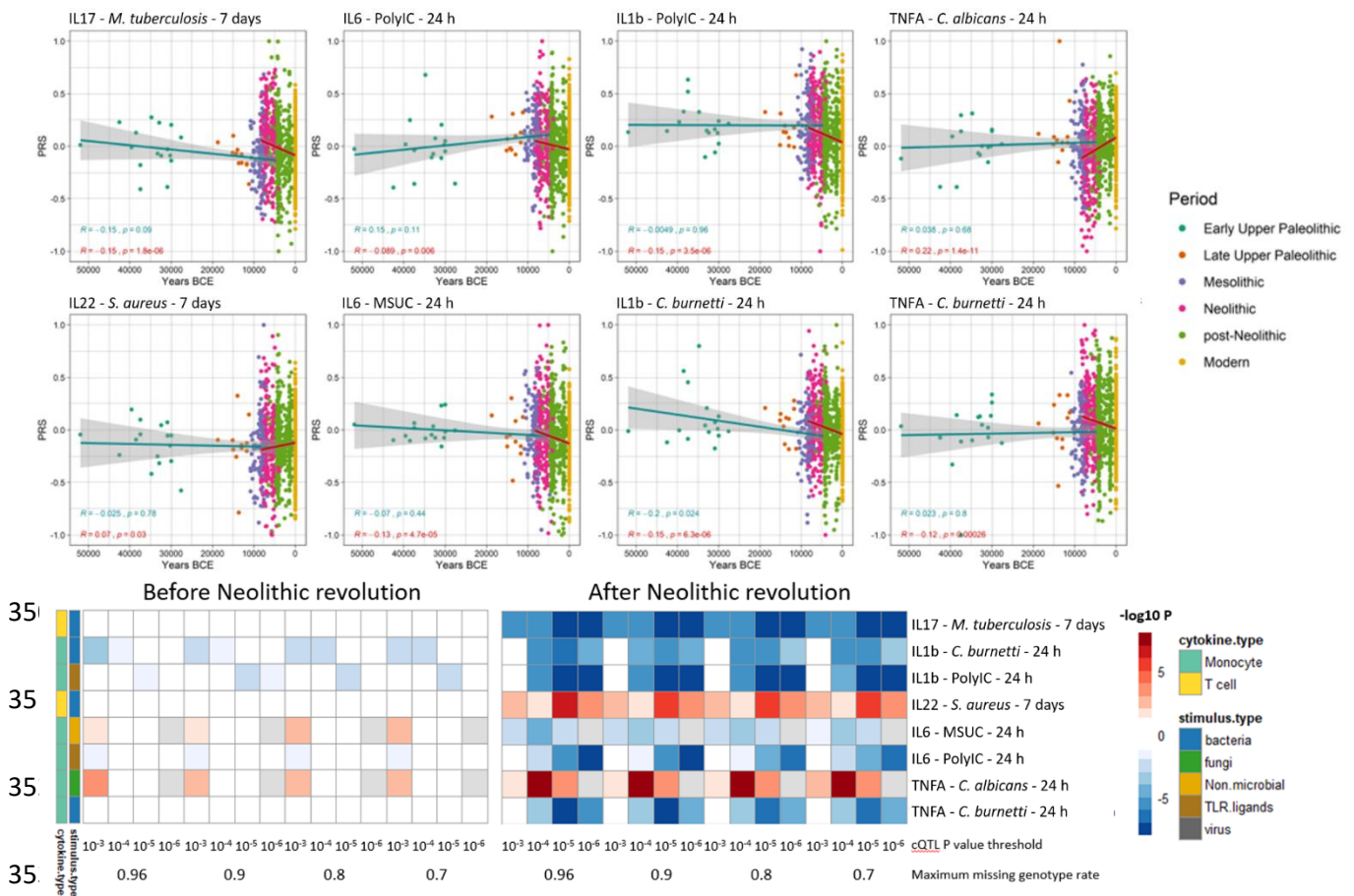
330 Robustness of results

331 In order to test the robustness of our results we calculated PRS using multiple different
332 P value thresholds for QTL inclusion. We used P value thresholds from 10^{-3} to 10^{-8} for
333 the complex traits obtained through GWAS catalog and the UK Biobank. The
334 thresholds used for the stimulated cytokine responses ranged from 10^{-3} to 10^{-6} . We
335 also calculated PRS using different variant missingness thresholds. This means we
336 removed samples with a variant missingness rate higher than 96, 90, 80, or 70 percent.
337 All of the results from the piecewise linear models were then used to create a heatmap
338 depicting the consistency and robustness of our observed correlations.

339 Additionally, various window-sizes were used for clumping the QTL's and LD based
340 clumping was also performed excluding variants with an LD greater than 0.2 compared
341 to our lead SNP within a window. In order to see whether our observations were due to
342 sample imbalances between the pre-Neolithic period and the later periods samples
343 originating from the Neolithic period and later were randomly down-sampled to the
344 same number of samples as the pre-Neolithic samples. Correlation coefficients
345 between PRS and sample age were then recalculated for the Neolithic and younger
346 samples and compared to the coefficients obtained using all Neolithic and younger
347 samples.

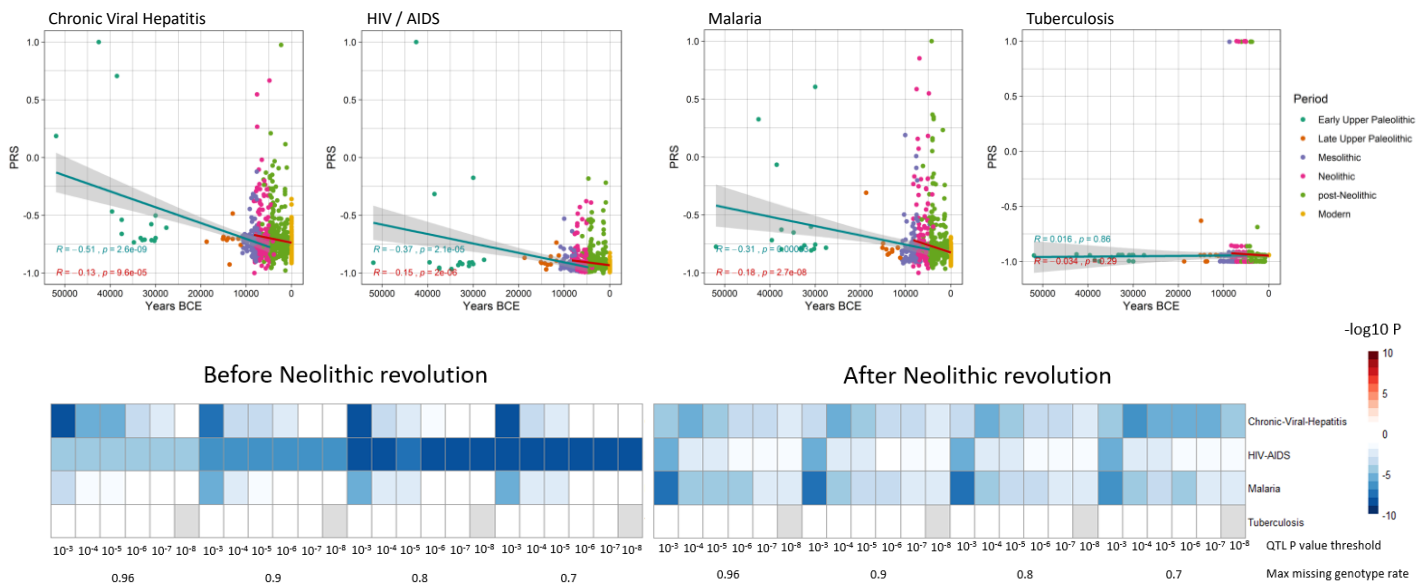
348

349 **Figures:**



354 **Figure 1: A) Correlation between cytokine PRS and time.** Samples are colored by
 355 broad age period. The blue regression lines show PRS before the Neolithic revolution
 356 remained relatively constant for all traits whereas the red regression lines show the
 357 correlation after the start of the Neolithic period. The threshold of max missing
 358 genotype per sample was 0.96 and QTL P value cutoff was 10^{-4} . MSUC: Monosodium
 359 urate crystals. B) **Correlation between cytokine PRS and time. using multiple**
 360 **thresholds reveals consistent trend.** Missing genotype rate ranged from 0.96, 0.9,
 361 0.8, and 0.7. QTL P value for variants included in our PRS models ranged from 10^{-3} ,
 362 10^{-4} , 10^{-5} , and 10^{-6} . The color key indicates the range of $-\log_{10} P$ values of the Pearson
 363 correlation between PRS and time. Red and blue indicate positive and negative
 364 association, respectively.

365



366

367 **Figure 2: Infectious disease risk PRS scores decrease with time, except**

368 **tuberculosis. A) Samples are colored by broad age period. The blue regression lines**

369 **show PRS before the Neolithic revolution remained relatively constant for all traits**

370 **whereas the red regression lines show that the correlation after the start of the**

371 **Neolithic period changed significantly. The threshold of max missing genotype per**

372 **sample was 0.96 and QTL P value cutoff was 10^{-3} . MSUC: Monosodium urate crystals.**

373 **B) Correlation between disease PRS and time using multiple thresholds reveals**

374 **consistent trend. Missing genotype rate ranged from 0.96, 0.9, 0.8, and 0.7. QTL P**

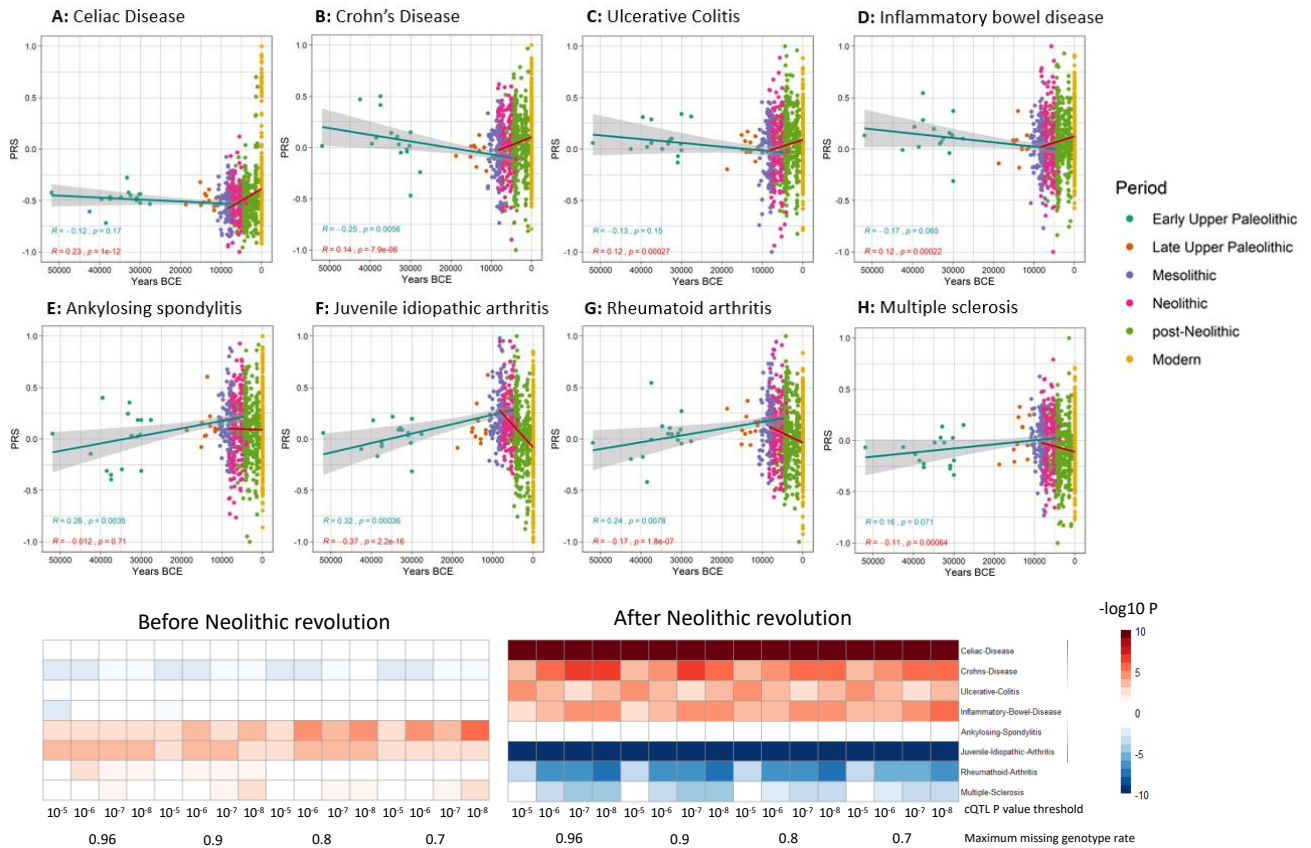
375 **value for variants included in our PRS models ranged from 10^{-3} , 10^{-4} , 10^{-5} , 10^{-6} , 10^{-7} ,**

376 **and 10^{-8} . The color key indicates the range of $-\log_{10} P$ values of the Pearson**

377 **correlation between PRS and time. Red and blue indicate positive and negative**

378 **association, respectively.**

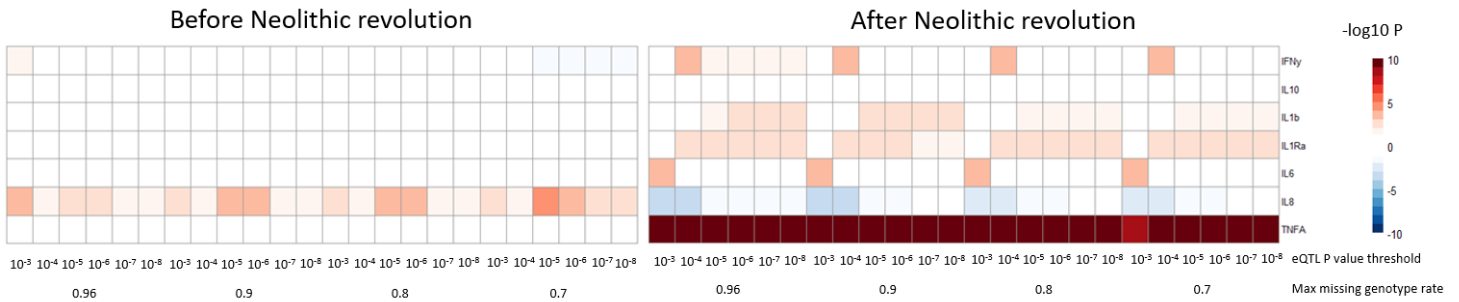
379



380 **Figure 3: Correlation between auto-immune and inflammatory disease PRS and**
 381 **time. A) Samples are colored by broad age period. The blue regression lines show**
 382 **PRS before the Neolithic revolution remained relatively constant for all traits whereas**
 383 **the red regression lines show that the correlation after the start of the Neolithic period**
 384 **changed significantly. The threshold of max missing genotype per sample was 0.96**
 385 **and QTL P value cutoff was 10^{-4} . MSUC: Monosodium urate crystals. B) Correlation**
 386 **between disease PRS and time using multiple thresholds reveals consistent**
 387 **trend. Missing genotype rate ranged from 0.96, 0.9, 0.8, and 0.7. QTL P value for**
 388 **variants included in our PRS models ranged from 10^{-5} , 10^{-6} , 10^{-7} , and 10^{-8} . The color**
 389 **key indicates the range of $-\log_{10} P$ values of the Pearson correlation between PRS and**
 390 **time. Red and blue indicate positive and negative association, respectively.**

391

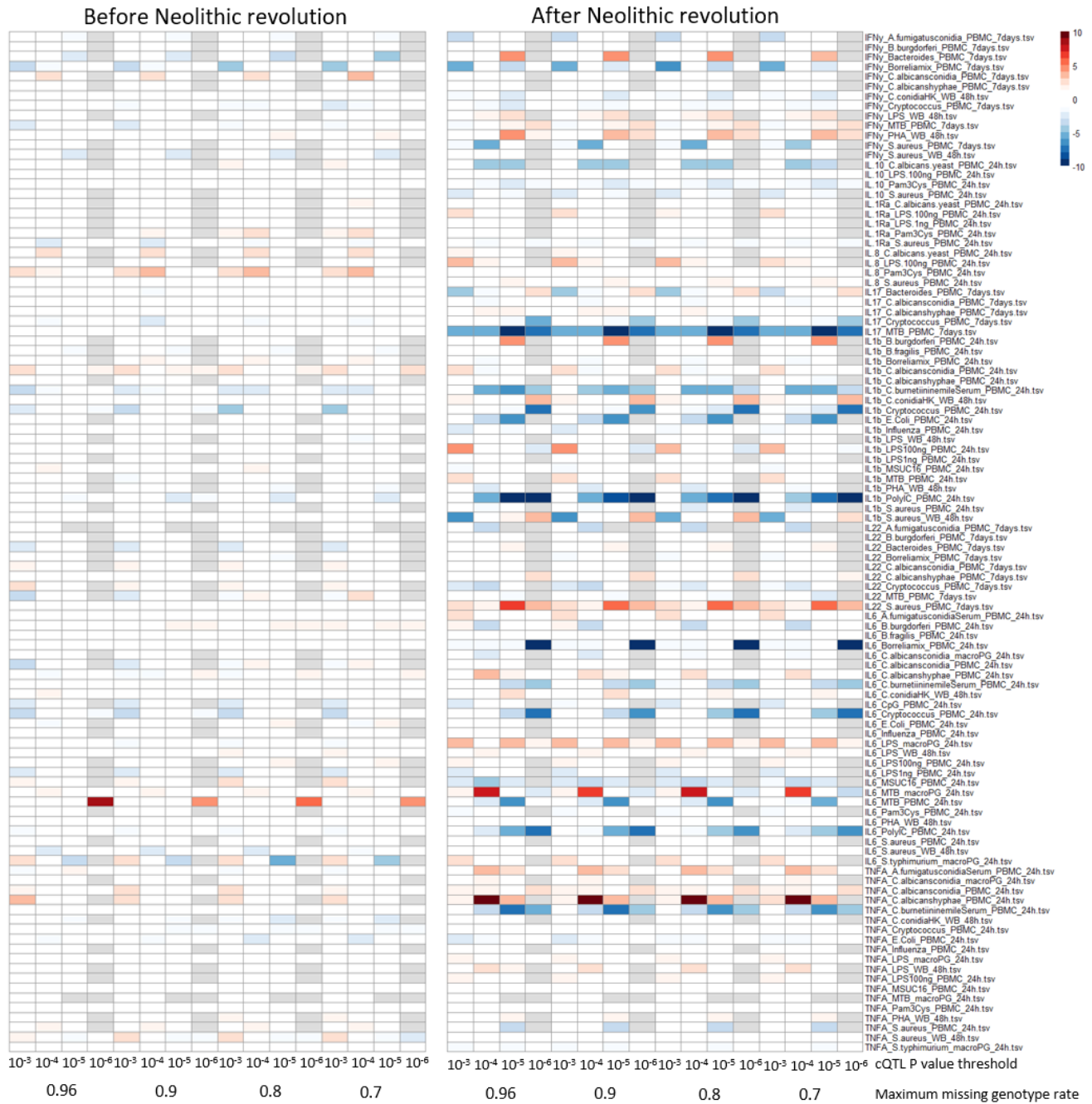
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393 **Figure 4: Cytokine gene expression PRS scores using cis- and trans-eQTLs**
394 **correlated with time.** Most notably is the highly significant increase in *TNFA* gene
395 expression PRS over time following the Neolithic revolution. Prior to the Neolithic
396 revolution an increase in *IL8* gene expression PRS can be observed which shifts to a
397 decreasing trend after the Neolithic revolution. Both *IL1B* and *IL1RN* gene expression
398 show a slight increase in PRS over time after the start of the Neolithic revolution.
399 Missing genotype rate ranged from 0.96, 0.9, 0.8, and 0.7. QTL P value for variants
400 included in our PRS models ranged from 10⁻³, 10⁻⁴, 10⁻⁵, 10⁻⁶, 10⁻⁷, and 10⁻⁸. The color
401 key indicates the range of -log₁₀ P values of the Pearson correlation between PRS and
402 time. Red and blue indicate positive and negative association, respectively.

403

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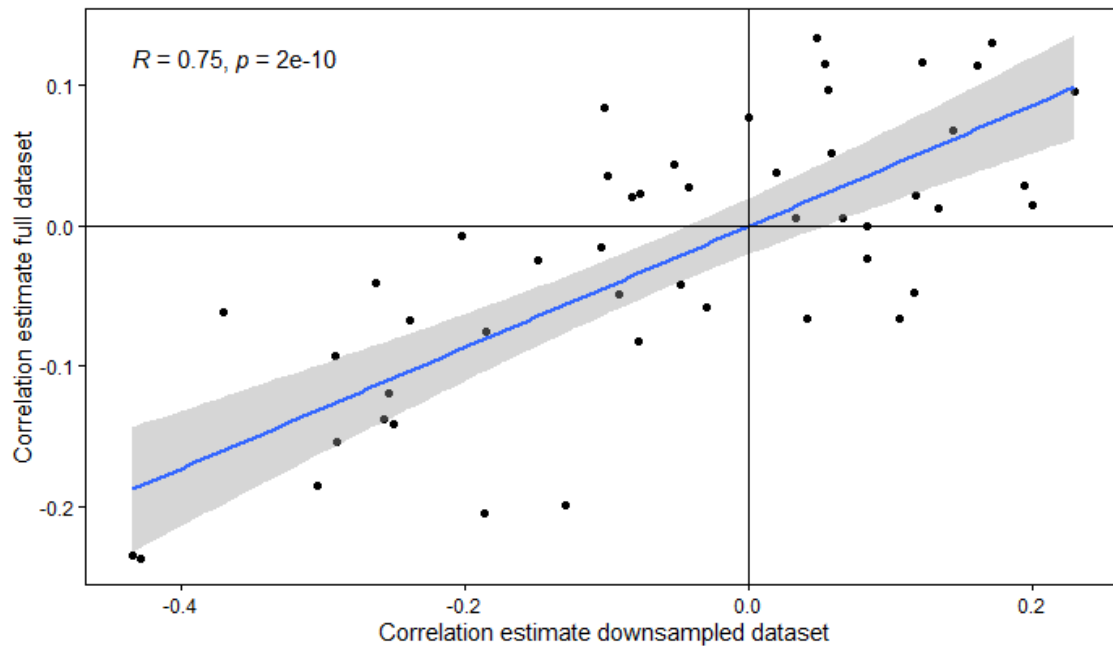


405

406 **Figure S1: Correlation between cytokine PRS and time.** Missing genotype rate
 407 ranged from 0.96, 0.9, 0.8, and 0.7. QTL P value for variants included in our PRS
 408 models ranged from 10⁻³, 10⁻⁴, 10⁻⁵, and 10⁻⁶. The color key indicates the range of -
 409 log₁₀ P values of the Pearson correlation between PRS and time. Red and blue
 410 indicate positive and negative association, respectively.

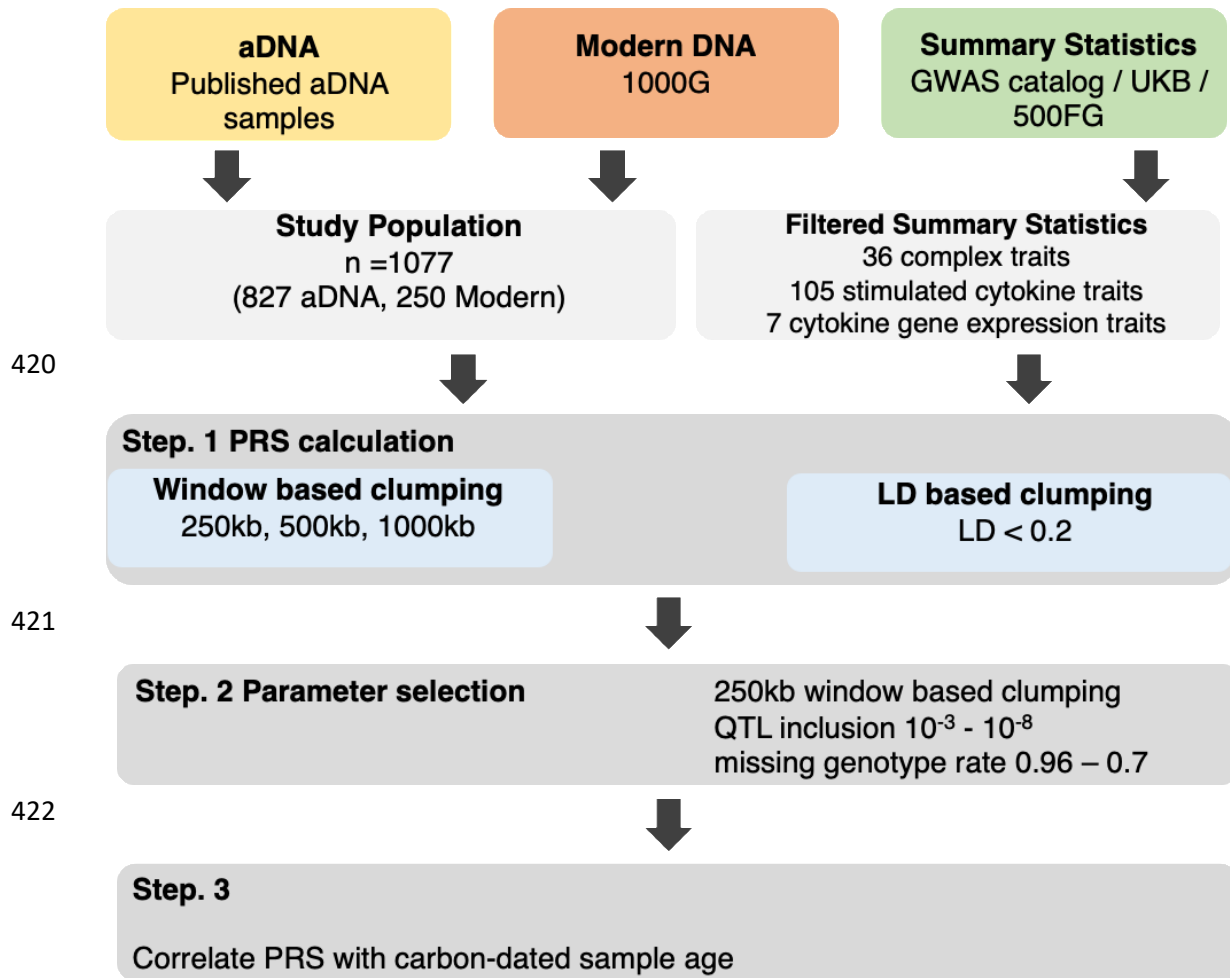
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412



413 **Figure S2: Robustness of correlation coefficients post Neolithic independent of**
414 **sample size.** Changes in PRS following the Neolithic revolution remain consistent after
415 down-sampling samples from after the start of the Neolithic period to the same amount
416 as samples before the Neolithic period. The lower number of samples reduces the
417 power which reduces the amount of significant correlations but does not influence the
418 direction of changes in PRS which were previously identified as significant.

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424 **Figure S3: Both aDNA and modern DNA samples of European individuals were**
425 **used in combination with summary statistics from predominantly European**
426 **populations to calculate PRS of immune-related traits. This was done at various**
427 **threshold combinations before correlating the scores with the sample age.**

| | Trait | Source/PMID | Population | Cohort Size |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| Auto-immune and inflammatory diseases | Celiac Disease | 22057235 | European Ancestry | 24269 |
| | Crohns Disease | 26192919 | European Ancestry: 86640 Asian Ancestry: 9846 | 96486 |
| | Ulcerative Colitis | 26192919 | European Ancestry: 86640 Asian Ancestry: 9846 | 96486 |
| | Inflammatory Bowel Disease | 26192919 | European Ancestry: 86640 Asian Ancestry: 9846 | 96486 |
| | Ankylosing Spondylitis | 23749187 | European Ancestry | 25764 |
| | Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis | 23603761 | European Ancestry | 2816 |
| | Rheumatoid Arthritis | 24390342 | European and Asian Ancestry | 103638 |
| | Multiple Sclerosis | 24076602 | European Ancestry | 80094 |
| Infectious diseases | Chronic Viral Hepatitis | UKB round 2 | European Ancestry | 361194 |
| | HIV / AIDS | UKB round 2 | European Ancestry | 361194 |
| | Malaria | UKB round 2 | European Ancestry | 361194 |
| | Tuberculosis | UKB round 2 | European Ancestry | 361194 |

428

429 **Figure S4: GWAS summary statistics and cohorts used for PRS calculation.**

430 Traits were separated into two categories: Auto-immune and inflammatory diseases-
 431 related traits, and infectious diseases-related trait. GWAS summary statistics from
 432 predominantly European populations were selected.

433

434

| | PBMC 24h | Macrophage 24h | WB 48h | PBMC 7d |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>A.fumigatusconidia</i> | | | | IFNy, IL22 |
| <i>B.burgdorferi</i> | IL1b, IL6 | | | IFNy, IL22, |
| <i>B.fragilis</i> | IL1b, IL6 | | | |
| <i>Bacteroides</i> | | | | IFNy, IL17, IL22 |
| <i>Borrelia</i> mix | IL1b, IL6 | | | IFNy, IL22 |
| <i>C.albicans.yeast</i> | IL1Ra, IL8, IL10 | | | |
| <i>C.albicansconidia</i> | IL1b, IL6, TNFa | IL6, TNFa | | IFNy, IL17, IL22 |
| <i>C.albicanshyphae</i> | IL1b, IL6, TNFa | | | IFNy, IL17, IL22 |
| <i>C.burnetii</i> inileSerum | IL1b, IL6, TNFa | | | |
| <i>C.conidia</i> HK | | | IFNy, IL1b, IL6, TNFa | |
| CpG | IL6 | | | |
| <i>Cryptococcus</i> | IL1b, IL6, TNFa | | | IFNy, IL17, IL22 |
| <i>E.Coli</i> | IL1b, IL6, TNFa | | | |
| <i>A.fumigatusconidia</i> Serum | IL6, TNFa | | | |
| Influenza | IL1b, IL6, TNFa | | | |
| LPS | | IL6, TNFa | IFNy, IL1b, IL6, TNFa | |
| LPS 100ng | IL1b, IL1Ra, IL6, IL8, IL10, TNFa | | | |
| LPS 1ng | IL1b, IL1Ra, IL6, IL8 | | | |
| MSUC16 | IL1b, IL6, TNFa | | | |
| MTB | IL1b, IL6, | IL6, TNFa | | IFNy, IL17, IL22 |
| Pam3Cys | IL1Ra, IL6, IL8, IL10, TNFa | | | |
| PHA | | | IFNy, IL1b, IL6, TNFa | |
| Poly IC | IL1b, IL6 | | | |
| <i>S.aureus</i> | IL1b, IL1Ra, IL6, IL8, IL10, TNFa | | IFNy, IL1b, IL6, TNFa | IFNy, IL22 |
| <i>S.typhimurium</i> | | IL6, TNFa | | |
| Total N | 58 | 8 | 16 | 23 |

435 **Table 1: Overview of the stimulus, cytokine, and timepoint combinations.** In total

436 105 unique stimulated cytokine traits were available using various types of stimuli

437 measuring both the innate and adaptive immune response.

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